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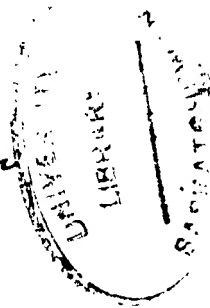
by

Robert Sinton

First President of the  
Provincial Livestock Association

Saskatchewan Winter Fair  
and Livestock Boards

*Robt Sinton*



Regina.  
December 25, 1935.



LOOKING BACKWARD  
from the eightieth milestone  
1936 to 1854

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LOOKING BACKWARD  
January 1, 1935

Looking backward a century later it is interesting to picture, in our mind's eye, the experiences of our forbears, as settlers during the first half century of their residence in the forests of Eastern Canada, in contrast with our experience as first settlers during the following half century on the great plains of the Middle West.

As one of a family of eight children of William Sinton and his wife Betsey Elliott, the writer was the oldest of four boys, one sister being older and three younger than the boys. We first saw the light of day on the home farm, Beauharnois County, Quebec, May 17, 1854, and took our place as a unit in the first Canadian born generation in that district, following settlement by our grandparents on both sides of the house, who with their families, emigrated from Roxburghshire, Scotland, in 1830, reaching the Port of Montreal at that time the head of ship navigation, on the Saint Lawrence River, in about ninety days by sailing vessel from point of embarkation. By arrangement and having been directed by friends who had preceded them a year or two before, a number of families were making the voyage together. [On leaving the ship, the party penetrated into the interior about forty miles west, using hired boats propelled by hand power, and following one of the smaller rivers, the Chateauguay, as an avenue of transportation in carrying their meagre belongings and the weaker members of the party, to their destination. The men folk took turns at the oars while the women and younger members who were able to walk followed the partly constructed roadway, and Indian foot-paths through the woods along the river banks. On reaching friends, up stream, who had secured locations along the river, temporary accommodation was given the women and children, while the men folk proceeded on

into the adjoining concessions, in order to view out the land, then only partially surveyed by lightly-slashed openings through the trackless forest. Having secured locations, the choice being the higher ridges in order to avoid lands subject to inundation, though these lands, when drained, later proved to be the most valuable, they then proceeded to erect shelters and establish their families in "The Land of the Maple Leaf." The maple tree, the leaf of which later became the Canadian National Emblem, proved to be the source of three of the first marketable products to settlers in the forest, first a table delicacy known as maple syrup or sugar, second a chemical known as potash (a poison), and third when cut and seasoned the finest fuel and building material known amongst forest products.

To their descendants of today the utter abandon displayed by first settlers in re-establishing their lives to the uncertainties of forest settlement in a strange land, was indeed sublime. Having burned their bridges behind them, depleted resources and distance from home left no hope of retracing their steps in case of failure. It proved a case of the survival of the fittest--do or die, since relief as we have it today was unknown at that time. No doubt Christian Canada today is the answer to the faith of our fathers,--living faith.

Pioneer Experience in the Woods: Even death itself had to be met in those days, as now, at unexpected times and places. A family by the name of Conley had almost reached their expected destination, on their way over from the Scottish Highlands when the husband and father of the family died of ship fever. The body was buried beside the river Chateauguay, and the grief-stricken mother and children were obliged to proceed to their forest location alone, to make the best of it. Shortly afterwards the eldest boy died and was buried near the home shanty, the mother prostrated with grief

made a habit of stretching herself out beside the fresh mound where at times she would cry herself to sleep. Then another sad misfortune occurred. The eldest girl had been sent into the woods to bring the cows home at milking time. The girl never returned; evidently she lost her bearings in the woods and perished. A few years afterwards the bones of a young person were found some distance from the home farm and this skeleton was taken to be the remains of the lost girl. The mother then changed her attitude toward life. She took the loss of her girl as an Act of God in punishment for her non-submission to His will in the death of her husband and her son. The remaining son shortly took control and married, and there followed a family of ten children, with whom we associated during our school days in the old log school house by the side of the road.

Unaccustomed as those people were to forest life their numbers being drawn from every vocation--from weavers, tailors, and shepherds, to preachers, in the land from which they emigrated, numbers of them, especially those having no previous connection with the soil, found it difficult to adjust themselves to their new environment. Nevertheless, in time, industry and the professions claimed many who had had former experience in these lines. Our own grandparents, one of whom was a cooper by trade with a knowledge of gardening and fruit culture, the other, a shepherd, were probably exceptions one having got credit for having introduced into his district the Fameuse apple, while the other introduced the Cheviot crossbred type of sheep.

By the exercise of courage and Christian fortitude the first settlers left an imprint for good in Canadian character and development which continued to be expressed even more fully through their families, (our fathers and mothers) as they became inured to forest life, and gradually took control of the situation in their day and generation. As to achievement possibly



the second generation (the one referred to) made the greater contribution to Canadian constructive development both in industry and in land settlement.

At home as they were in their forest surroundings, young men naturally became expert in both the constructive use of forest products and the destruction of what hindered their advance; in the equipment and clearing up of lands for settlement and with the assistance of fire, unfortunately not always kept under control, the primeval forest began to disappear almost too quickly. As a result whole concessions and townships became occupied, many of the occupants being sons and daughters, the overflow of first families now seeking homes of their own. Large families being the rule in those days, the code of management necessary to rear families in respectability and some degree of comfort under the primitive conditions of the times, constituted a practical school in household and farm economics not found possible apart from pioneer experience.

The beautiful farm homes now replacing the unbroken forest, stand as a silent tribute to the achievements in Canadian development of our fathers and mothers in their day.

And now, in turn, the overflow from these families the first Canadian born generation of that period, were ready to seek new fields of endeavor-- among whom we were one. Although settlement had been going on intermittently in the Maritimes by home-seekers from overseas, by United Empire Loyalists as a result of the War of Independence, by the Republic to the south, also in lower Canada (now Quebec) by the French since the arrival of Jacques Cartier in 1535 and Champlain in 1608, not until immigration had penetrated into and occupied the great lakes territory of Upper Canada (now Ontario) did Canada take on the status of a Canadian Nation in the making.

Following in the wake of settlement, industrial expansion in many lines began to take form, and naturally, development followed along the waterways before the advent of railways or paved highways. The Saint Lawrence being the great traffic avenue between the markets of the world and the Canadian interior by way of the great lakes, it became necessary, in order to overcome a succession of rapids on the river, that a system of ship canals be constructed beginning with the Lachine and old Beauharnois Canals immediately west of Montreal continuing construction of the chain of navigation by canal, river, and lake through to completion at the Sault, thereby putting into effect the greatest freshwater highway in the world at that early period in Canadian history. During the 1840's and 50's leading up to Confederation in 1867, great constructive development continued, and forest products began to be looked upon with much greater favor as they became commercialized and processed both for home and overseas demand, resulting in forest resources becoming the basic industrial product of Canada. In fact only when Canada's natural resources began to be more fully developed, did her people realize that the fine balance existing between her resources, climate and human need, was such as, if properly utilized and husbanded, would make her practically self-contained.

Following Confederation, Canada came into possession of the Hudson's Bay Territory now the three Prairie Provinces of the West, making Dominion connection with British Columbia and the Pacific Ocean as her western boundary.

This was followed again by another great project-- the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway which when completed gave Canada, in addition to her great seasonal water service, an overland all-year service from coast to coast.

The development of these great projects resulted in opening up to Eastern Canada and the world at large the great open spaces of the West, since known as the ~~Prairie Provinces of Canada~~, offering to prospective settlers the free choice of ready-made farms waiting for the plough, being in direct contrast to the experience of a century ago when our forbears were obliged to hew their homes out of the unbroken forest before they could become established in comfort.

During the 60's a steady movement of young Canadians to the United States developed, the Civil War for the suppression of slavery being a magnet to young Canadians seeking adventure; and the opening up of the border states to settlement also proved to be a great drawing card, until met partially by the opening up of the Prairie Territory of Western Canada under the British Flag and Canadian control.

During the early 70's and following the first half-breed uprising under Riel, the historic North West Mounted Police force took control in the interest of law and order in the North West. Confidence became re-established and toward the later 70's Canada's 'second great immigration movement was well under way, the first into the woods of Eastern Canada, the second into the prairies of the West. Responding to the urge of the Western Movement at that time to "Go west, young man, go west," in May 1878, I found myself on the way by rail from Montreal to Sarnia, Ont., by what was then known as the Beatty Route, by boat to Duluth, Minnesota, by rail to Fisher's Landing on the Red River, then by stern-wheel boat to Fort Garry, now Winnipeg. On the way across the lakes we came in contact with a party of British immigrants under the leadership of a man by the name of J.C. Whellins. This party was heading for the Little Saskatchewan River where land reservations were said to be awaiting the party.

On being pressed by Mr. Whellins to join the party, a number of young men, myself in the number, decided to do so, on the promise of equal treatment in land selection. On reaching Winnipeg we found a place of considerable size and business activity, with groups of settlers outfitting for the trail, their prospective homesteads yet to be located.

As to first impressions, although at that early date the outlook was uncertain as to possibilities in the great Western hinterland, an atmosphere of expectancy appeared to prevail everywhere as settlement moved into possession.

Our first meeting with the natives especially those with the dark mothers and white fathers of different nationalities interested us very much, particularly in view of the recent uprising under Riel, and we did much surmising as to their feelings in connection with the white men in such numbers taking possession of their country.

In the meantime our party, having completed the purchase of their outfits, moved out onto the trail leading towards the Little Saskatchewan 125 miles distant, our method of transportation being the one commonly in use at the time,--the ox and Red River cart, a new experience to each one of the party, more particularly the British miners who had no previous experience with farm animals.

On the way west we passed through the settlements of Headingly, Poplar Point, High Bluff, and Portage la Prairie. Then taking the north trail to Westburn, a new settlement, we proceeded west by way of the old Hudson's Bay Cart Trail toward where Neepawa stands today and continuing on to the crossing of the Little Saskatchewan at Odenna, now Minnedosa, then the location of the Land Office for that district.

Here maps were secured indicating the land reservations open to the party at a point later named Rapid City and situated 30 miles down stream from Odessa.

On reaching the reservation some competition resulted in making selection of the homesteads, the lands being broken somewhat by sloughs and brush, the choice being the open sections. However, in view of the original survey of the C.P.R. being run through the Saskatchewan valley at this point, all of the party finally decided to locate. We also succeeded in having a half section reserved for a younger brother who followed a year later. The party then proceeded to carry out the usual homestead duties, patents to the lands being issued in four years.

Incidents recalled during the homestead years: One recalls the terrible blizzard in the winter of '78-'79,--the first snowfall, about ten inches, lay undisturbed on the ground. One morning in January the wind blew soft from the south, then shifted to the north and blew with such violence that it lifted the whole mass of snow into the air, the result being a blinding, choking blizzard which lasted for thirty-six hours. Ox teams turned loose on the trail in some cases perished while the drivers tried to find shelter in the brush wherever possible. A neighbour's body, that of Johnnie Dunbar, was afterwards found under a scrub oak tree not more than a couple of hundred yards from his shack. Friends whipsawed boards from poplar logs from which they made a rough box in which they placed his body to be buried under the cot in his shack.

About 1880 the historic 1000 mile ride and drive made by the Marquis of Lorne, then Governor General of Canada, accompanied by a contingent of the North West Mounted Police, was undertaken for

purposes of observation, commencing at Winnipeg and bearing west through pioneer settlements in Manitoba including Rapid City. The cavalcade then stood off toward the western boundary of Manitoba passing into the then unsettled North West Territory, and bearing West toward Forts Wood-Mountain, Walsh, and McLeod, mounted police posts introducing law and order along "no man's land" bordering the United States, at that time the happy hunting ground of Indians, buffalo hunters, and whiskey venders from the South. The Governor's party made the return journey through United States Territory by way of Fort Benton on the Missouri River.

Memory also recalls the great Winnipeg Land Boom following connection with the outside world by rail in the early 80's. Immigration continued to pour in, drawn partly by the boom. Winnipeg, the Gateway City, began to be looked upon as a possible second Chicago.

The movement at its height really assumed the form of an epidemic, the infection spreading up country to small centers such as Rapid City, Winnipeg being the central point of sale activities. As a result, men of a speculative turn of mind flocked to Winnipeg, had their propositions whipped into shape in map form and placed on the market, great auction sales being put on there from day to day. In an effort to dispose of our farms we succeeded in selling my brother's farm located nearer Rapid City than my own, consideration being \$5000.00 one-half cash, the balance in three months, and although the bubble had burst before the due date, fortunately he received the final payment. My own farm was sold later to a neighbour, at a smaller price.

About 1880 the first self-binding harvester made its appearance in the district using wire as a binder, followed a year or two later by the use of

twine, in view of Western Canada's contribution to the bread basket of the world since that time, this step forward in harvesting equipment, now recalled, appears like a milestone in the history of world wheat production.

During the early 80's the C.P.R. abandoned the original survey by way of Rapid City in favor of a more southerly route, thus avoiding several costly engineering problems, in the Little Saskatchewan, Assiniboine, and Qu'Appelle River valleys. This proved to be a great disappointment to the Rapid City Settlement as the location had originally been selected with the hope that it would later be a divisional point on the C.P.R.

Following the Winnipeg boom, the railway, ever pressing toward the Western horizon, became the great center of attraction, opening up as it did, new territory every day, second homesteads being permitted west of Manitoba. In addition to the regular immigration movement, many Manitobans, some of them financial derelicts, from the Winnipeg boom and others having sold out being disappointed in their first locations, were looking for a second chance, all joined in the common movement westward. In this movement we found ourself a unit reaching Pile of Bones Creek in July 1882 at a point then occupied as a Railway construction and land prospectors' camp, which was being added to every day. Even at that date the report had gone abroad that this location had been chosen by Lieutenant Governor Dewdney as the future capital of the North West Territories.

Seeking confirmation of this report we lost no time in trying to locate the Governor. Not being successful just then, however, we located his coachman, Robert Green, who was holding down two positions at the time; one where Government House now stands,

and his homestead situated about where the Burns Packing plant is now located. This custom became the rule with Regina residents later, while the land rush was on, no doubt giving rise to the term "buckboard farmer" then in use.

As to the Capital, Mr. Green assured me (confidentially) that the matter was settled without question. As a matter of fact the Mounted Police were even then taking up their position under canvas on the west bank of the Pile of Bones, about where the Barracks is now situated.

Naturally the location of the Capital of the North West Territories at this point carried with it great prestige, and necessarily so, the Railway having just emerged from a very attractive park landscape west of the Manitoba Boundary extending to the eastern limit of the great plain. Naturally, prospective settlers had some questionings to overcome as to the wisdom of driving their lifestakes into the great open spaces, the boundaries of which, to the pioneer at least, were limited only by the onward sweep of the horizon, as the railway and civilization penetrated into its vast interior from week to week; with this difference, however, in the parklands to the east immigration preceded the railway, whereas on the great plains immigration followed railway construction.

As to homesteads, no land office being, as yet established at this point, the common practice was that of squatting, on the principle that possession proved nine points of the law, a tent or a shack being evidence of possession.

At the time of our arrival all even-numbered sections within three miles of the proposed capital were occupied. However, we succeeded in locating



a homestead and preemption three miles directly south of the police encampment on which we at once erected a shack.

Immediately adjoining, on an odd-numbered section, we discovered a beautiful haymeadow which we figured contained about 500 tons of hay; being Scotch we had visions of this hay on the market at \$10.00 per ton. I then decided to take my friend, Robert Green, into my confidence. Having done so we agreed to put up the hay in partnership, he to find the outfit, we to do the work; the hay to be divided on the basis of one-third to the outfit, and two-thirds to labor. Having secured the services of Mr. Sandy Dunnett (who by the way was buried from Knox Church two months ago) we got to work at once. A day or two later we noticed a number of teams and hay racks approaching the meadow from the direction of police headquarters. The men at once proceeded to erect a large tent and started two mowers cutting hay. Upon our asking by whose authority these men were there, they replied, "On the authority of Robert Green, and the Mounted Police." They had come in overland from Winnipeg, to supply the Mounted Police, at this point with 400 tons of hay. The names of the contractors were John Rodely and Samuel Beach. Not having any prior right there ourselves except the unwritten law of the Prairie at the time, that of "First come first served," the land being owned by the C.P.R. Company, we held our Scotch in check until we met Mr. Green, who explained that, in view of his position with the Governor he was obliged to give the information as to where hay was located, which excuse convinced me that our position as to law and order in the Territory was as yet tentative, and we decided to make hay while the sun shone, finishing the season with about 100 tons of hay to the good.

In regard to odd-numbered sections covered by the Dominion Twenty-million-acre Land Grant, as set out in the C.P.R. construction contract, extending on the

great plains area to twenty miles on each side of the railway, this selection of the choicest farming areas, by the company's land experts, no doubt was a certain guide to first settlers seeking best homestead lands.

On the other hand the subtle method of selection, that of every second section, with the object of sharing in enhanced settlement values through the principle of unearned increment, together with exemption from taxation for twenty years, had the effect of placing this company in a favored position not consistent with pioneer development. In making a later study of the outlines of the great plains from its eastern boundary westward to the Cypress Hills and beyond, it was interesting to notice the absence of rivers, the drainage overflow being mere trickles, when measured by the area covered. True there were shallow lakes and many sloughs which may have accounted for certain drainage by absorption and evaporation. However, not until we came in sight of the swift mountain streams flowing east from the foothills did we see anything to compare with the forest streams of the East. Strange to say mountain streams flowing eastward, the Milk River on the boundary, and the Teton, the Marias and Sun rivers in Montana, appear to fall away south as they approach the Cypress Hill elevation. These streams, together with Frenchman's Creek, having its source in Keeley Springs, Cypress Hills, all flow south into the Missouri and on through the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico; whereas mountain streams farther north, also flowing eastward, the Belly, St. Mary, Old Man and Bow rivers together with Swift Current Creek, also having its source in Keeley Springs, Cypress Hills, all flow into the South Saskatchewan which turns north and on to the Hudson's Bay, by way of Lake Winnipeg and the Nelson River, thus indicating the great plain elevation from Regina southwest to the foothills as being the great watershed or height of land on this part of the continent.

As to altitude, the absence of trees and rivers, and the influence of the great mountain range in relation to the weather on the great plains of the mid-west, rainfall, temperature, etc.,--these were matters of speculation by the pioneers of the early days, and have continued so ever since. Apart from our everyday activities the question of the future possibilities of the country consistent with the natural resources, geographical position, distance from tide-water, market, etc., provided subjects of deep interest yet to be experienced by settlers through observation and personal contact.

In the meantime considerable activity had developed at the new capital site, the ceremony of naming the future capital took place from the rear platform of an official car occupied by a party of Government and C.P.R. officials quite near Pile of Bones Creek. By request, Princess Louise forwarded the name from Quebec City, and Governor Dewdney pronounced the name Regina, the date being August 28, 1882.

The Railway station had at that time been located a mile and a half east of the creek in order to secure a level position for the station and railway yards, well away from the incline approaching and leaving the creek.

The construction camp having moved on, other camp occupants immediately took up positions on the south side of the track opposite the railway depot, ready-made house material in knock-down form being the material used by the railway, mounted police, and government house, in the erection of the first buildings, all of which were then under construction.

In view of traffic pressure necessitated by steel being laid at the rate of one to three miles per day, special arrangements with the railway were necessary

in order to get building material and other supplies forward over the temporary track. With the winter approaching, as yet to be tried out on the open plain, and the new Capital now away to quite a start, with residents for the most part still under canvas, the question of housing became a problem of some concern. However, new arrivals being in the prime of life as a rule, many young men, including store and bunk house proprietors, decided to remain under canvas, and what with good heating stoves, reinforcing with light supports and building paper inside and plenty of snow-banking protection outside, a degree of comfort, while temporizing with zero, was enjoyed more than would be thought possible until experienced. True, in addition to the temporary accommodation mentioned, through the autumn and early winter months much building activity had been going on,—on the Mounted Police Barracks, Government House, Bank of Montreal, and Land Office, besides many others, nearly all of ready-made material prepared for immediate construction. Everyone being busy, money circulated freely, living conditions, although modest, were sufficient. Plenty of the standard foods of the times, with pemmican and frozen buffalo meat as specials when asked for, frozen potatoes being considered a delicacy the first winter.

In squaring accounts with Mr. Green in the late autumn we found ourselves in possession of a team of horses and harness. We then joined forces with Mr. Beach and found steady work during all of the winter with the Mounted Police and Government House, handling all building and other supplies necessary to their equipment and every day needs, using four teams with their drivers, and operating from temporary accommodation erected near the present railway bridge with the object of being near a water supply for our horses.

As the spring of '83 opened Mr. Beach moved into town while we remained, the police having persuaded us to start a small dairy and poultry supply depot, as fresh milk and eggs were then considered delicacies by the police. By paying good prices we succeeded in getting the cows and poultry from incoming settlers and with grass and water close at hand we were away to a good start at once.

During the summer months we also made some improvements on the homestead in the way of breaking and the erection of a small stable.

Having already caught the dual purpose outlook, with visions of a growing city surrounded by a rich agricultural district, we tried to shape our movements accordingly in the hope of sharing in future developments from both angles.

Looking backward a half century later, we are inclined to think this pioneer inspiration perhaps unconsciously became the guiding principle of our activities, thus presenting an opportunity along with other pioneer spirits to share in first things, both urban and rural, in the early years of the Canadian West.

Memory also recalls the building of our first house in the subdivision adjoining Government House, in '83, the builder being a Mr. Gowanlock afterwards killed in the Frog Lake Massacre in '85. His wife along with Mrs. Delaney were taken prisoners by the Indians at the same time. The house mentioned was later sold to A. E. Forget, then in charge of the Indian Department here and later appointed first Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. Mr. Forget then moved the house to Dewdney Avenue across the street west of the Indian Office and North West Council Chambers, here it formed a landmark surrounded by trees until quite recently.

In the meantime Regina continued to develop. During '83 extensive townsite surveys had been completed, extending over Dominion C. P.R. and North West Land Company's properties on adjoining sections, the Regina townsite being jointly controlled by the above-named interests. In the first years of her history Regina experienced the usual mushroom growth characteristic of the great emigration movement of that period.

However, it should never be forgotten that no capital in Canadian history--no city for that matter--ever faced the future with such utter abandon as did Regina in driving her stakes into the great unknown spaces of the Middle West in 1882. Hope must have been her only inspiration, since the outlook at that time was practically blank as to the possibilities of production, weather hazards, adequate water supply, etc.--a still greater spirit of adventure was shown by first settlers on the land.

Again a look backward from the 1930's to the experience of our grandparents under the protection of the forest, half a century before, compared with that of their grandchildren on the unprotected spaces of the West, opens up reminiscences of early pioneer family life, the contrasts of which make an interesting study when spread over a half century of experience in forest and prairie life in Canada.

I recall the following pioneer incident regarding the first child born in South Regina district:

During the early summer of 1883 a Mr. Ewing and three sons arrived from the Eastern Townships of Que., the eldest son being accompanied by his wife. The boys located homesteads about eight miles southwest of Regina. The father remained while they erected a house on George's homestead, and a shack each for John and Charlie, before returning home. The following winter while the two older boys were gone with a pair of oxen for wood, 25 miles distant, a terrible

blizzard blew up which delayed their return for several days.

During the night of the storm, no doubt predisposed by fear, the stork arrived at George's home with a baby girl, the mother being alone, except for a younger brother who by chance had found his way to the house on the night in question. He was quite unable to go for the assistance of a neighbour woman some miles distant until the storm had spent itself. Mercifully the mother and baby survived, the baby developing into a lovely young woman.

The family afterwards moved to Fort William, Ont., and years later while on a trip to the coast Mrs. Ewing called on the writer and Mrs. Sinton, between trains, and expressed a wish to visit the old homestead once more. We were pleased to drive her there. The house being unoccupied really did not look very inviting; however, pioneer memories were renewed and her wish to have one more look was gratified.

Quotation from the Winnipeg Free Press in 1883:  
"One thing is certain, Regina will never amount to anything more than a country village or town for the simple reason that in neither its position nor its surroundings is there anything to give it the slightest commercial importance. Situated in the midst of a vast plain of inferior soil with hardly a tree to be seen as far as the eye can range, and with about enough water in the miserable little creek known as the Pile of Bones, to wash a sheep, it would scarcely make a respectable farm, to say nothing of being fixed upon as a site for the capital of a great province. The place has not a single natural advantage to recommend it." The great World's Grain Show and Conference, held in 1933, a half century later, picturing Regina with her fifty thousand population, as the central point representative of the granary of the Empire, should be sufficient answer to the 1883 protest of the Winnipeg Free Press.

In the spring of '84 we sold out the dairy and poultry business and accepted an offer to break 300 acres of prairie south of Regina at \$7.00 per acre, for a former acquaintance, Mr. McFee of Montreal, a brother of the president of the Board of Trade of that city. Although coming from prominent people in the East, Mr. McFee evidently made a mistake common to the West all through its history, that of covering too much territory in his business activities. As a result we had our first experience in sharing unwillingly in inflated western optimism, although fortunately not for the full amount earned.

During the winter of 1884-85 trouble which had been brewing between the Dominion Government and the Half-breed Settlements of the North, led by Louis Riel began to look as though it might reach a head at any time.

About March 15th Commissioner Irwin received instructions from Ottawa to start north immediately with all the men available. By request of the Commissioner we joined the contingent as transport assistants with two good teams and a teamster, Tracy Lettington by name. On the morning of the 18th all teams loaded up with 1400 lbs. of ammunition, 300 lbs. of feed, and four men with each team. We made a start reaching Fort Qu'Appelle the following day. From that point, the contingent having been increased by a number of mounted men making about 150 in all, 75 of whom were mounted and the balance assigned to the sleighs, we proceeded north, following a fairly well-packed winter trail and guided by the telegraph line leading to Prince Albert. After leaving the Indian Agency at Touchwood no further signs of civilization were seen other than the mail shacks along the way until we reached the river. Memory recalls camping in sleigh boxes on what was known as The Great Salt Plain, the fourth night out in a 40° below zero temperature



according to reports the following morning. On the fifth night out, upon reaching Hoodoo, (the name indicated on one of the mail shacks) we were met by two friendly breeds driving a pair of ponies hitched to a jumper, and bearing a message to the Commissioner advising him not to go by way of Batoche as the breeds were prepared to attack from pits at the crossing of the river.

The following morning the Commissioner ordered us to fall in and take the lead with our teams, and if our horses were shot at the river to move them to one side as quickly as possible in order to clear the trail for the teams following. True to our Scotch instinct we enquired "Who is going to pay for these horses, if shot?" His reply was "Fall in"! I then began to realize that I was with a military outfit and was of very secondary consideration at that, as the commissioner evidently intended to use us as a screen in case of attack. The same morning an advance guard of a few mounted men was sent ahead for reconnoitering purposes. At the noon hour evidently plans were changed as the advance guard on reaching the parting of the trail stood off towards Prince Albert by way of Clarke's Crossing, instead of going by way of Batoche. The following evening we reached Prince Albert without incident, later described in Police annals as a forced march occupying seven days at an average of 45 miles per day.

After resting the horses for one day and having them re-shod we made a very early morning start for Fort Carlton, 50 miles by trail, up stream, having left a number of men behind suffering from snow blindness. We reached Fort Carlton early in the afternoon just in time to meet Major Crozier and contingent returning from the Duck Lake fight with a reported loss of ten men left dead on the field, a number of whom were Prince Albert volunteers; included also were

several wounded men brought back to the Fort. Years later, we were informed by John Paul then of Prince Albert and at one time Mayor of Moose Jaw, that he was delegated by Prince Albert citizens to go and beg liberty of Riel at Batoche for possession of the bodies of the dead killed at Duck Lake, for burial. In answer to his request Riel replied, "Yes, take your dead,-- you will have more of them to bury before this thing is through!"

Following the skirmish at Duck Lake, activities at the Fort immediately took on a defensive aspect, a mounted guard surrounding the Fort was posted, bastions manned, and guns on hand placed in position, precautions at the time thought necessary should the Metis, flushed with success for the moment, decide to make an attack. Evidently in making a mental survey of the possibilities of attack elsewhere by the Metis, the Officers Commanding had grave fears for Prince Albert, left practically defenceless, and with surrounding settlers flocking in for protection.

Activities then led us to believe that preparations were being made to abandon the Fort, as a fatigue party was even then removing all flour and meal from the store-house, scattering it over the square and then soaking it with kerosene, the idea being to prevent any salvaging of non-inflammable produce, in the event of the Fort being raided by the enemy.

We then received orders to stand by with our teams, all to be loaded to capacity during the night, men helping the horses to haul up to the level leading out of the valley. At daybreak, all being ready, a start was made bearing off toward Prince Albert. Records report that on the morning of our departure a kerosene lamp was accidentally upset, setting fire to the Fort. This, of course, was not correct, as movements before leaving plainly indicated that the firing

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of the Fort was intentional. Some apprehension of attack was felt, we understood at the pine woods; however, nothing exciting occurred and we reached Prince Albert about 8 p.m. the same day.

A guard was at once posted around the town in two circles,--a mounted guard outside, an inside circle on foot, a precaution taken in case of a sudden night attack by the breeds. The signal was to be a rifle shot relayed through these guard circles to the officials and men's quarters. The signal took place right enough which caused a scramble for a couple of hours; however, it proved to be a false alarm possibly caused by some joker. Personally we had some cause to remember the scramble. We were quartered in the Nesbitt Presbyterian Church, the seats being removed. The men slept fully dressed, in rows on the floor, at the bugle call to fall in, about 2 a.m., a rush to the door was the first move. Not rising on the instant in the scramble we were hit on the bridge of the nose by a spur as one of the men stumbled along in the darkness, no lamp being convenient. The wound bled very freely and as order became restored we became the serious concern of the Commissioner, as we had been reported wounded in some unknown way.

Evidently the loss of the Prince Albert volunteers at Duck Lake, and constant rumours of impending attack by the combined forces of the Metis and Indians caused a sort of panic among the people of Prince Albert including many from the country who had congregated there looking for safety.

In view of reinforcements coming forward under Middleton, evidently Commissioner Irwin, as controller of the Mounted Police in the West, found himself halting between cross purposes,--first, that of protecting Prince Albert at that time the pivotal point of White retreat in the North; or, secondly, making an attack

on Batoche even while reinforcements were on the way, with the possibility of repeating the mistake made by Crozier at Duck Lake. For choosing the former course the Commissioner was later subjected to severe criticism in certain quarters as to whether his conduct at Prince Albert failed to reflect credit to an otherwise brilliant record of the Mounted Police force. The criticism was possibly fairly evenly divided between military and public opinion expressed since.

The duty assigned to us at Prince Albert was that of foraging feed supplies for the Police horses with instructions to confine our activities, if possible, to half-breed settlements, they having vacated their farms and congregated at Batoche, while the white settlers had retired to Prince Albert, thus leaving all farms vacated for the time being. Our problem was to distinguish between white and half-breed farms.

Our real problem, however, was to avoid half-breed parties returning for supplies, as they always carried arms. We were given an escort of one mounted man for the first day or two. He was then withdrawn and we were supplied with a rifle each. However, by keeping a sharp lookout during daylight and avoiding their campfires at night, we succeeded so well that we were continued at this work until the police were assigned other duties after the battle of Batoche and the capture of Riel.

In regard to Commissioner Irwin's inaction even after hostilities began at Batoche, it was commonly reported that the Commissioner had been anxiously awaiting an order to join Middleton before he attacked the Metis position, which order never came, the reason assumed being that Middleton did not wish to share the glories of victory with the Commissioner of the Mounted Police.

Evidently Commissioner Irwin had been in touch with the General by scout despatch as he approached Batoche. However, owing to difficulty of communication at the river through the spring freshet and other causes elsewhere, despatches became conflicting through uncertainty of delivery. In any case, on April 25th, the Commissioner moved out of Prince Albert with two hundred mounted men and necessary transport towards Batoche. On reaching Red Deer Hill he was overtaken by a delegation from Prince Albert who reported that the people were in a panicky state at being left defenseless, as reports of the Fort Pitt and Frog Lake massacres by the Indians had reached Prince Albert. The contingent then received orders to face about towards Prince Albert. On reaching the town we took up our old position, there to remain until relieved by General Middleton on May 20th, after the capture of Batoche, Prince Albert then having been practically in a state of siege for about two months.

After resting a day at Prince Albert, General Middleton proceeded up the river by boat to relieve the situation at Battleford where he also received the surrender of Chief Poundmaker. Middleton's forces including the mounted police under Irwin, were now concentrated in an attempt to capture Chief Big Bear who was then taking advantage of the muskegs and swamps of the country to avoid capture.

All resistance now ceased, both by the Metis and the Indians the latter really never having given the organized assistance expected by their half-breed brotherhood.

About June 10th in view of the changed aspect of the expedition, his men having by now worn their uniforms and boots to tatters floundering through brush and muskeg, the General decided to disband.

With the exception of the fact that Big Bear was still at large the uprising had been thoroughly crushed and the leader, Riel, captured. The problem of capturing a crafty Indian and his tribe became a matter of strategy suited to mounted men rather than to infantry. It was decided to leave the capture of Big Bear to separated units of the Mounted Police including a unit of the Winnipeg Light Infantry who were then in touch with a wing of Big Bear's band, and who were at the time holding a number of white prisoners. On demand by Scout despatch, these were released, and about July 2nd Big Bear himself surrendered.

On the relief of Prince Albert our duties as a foraging party for the Mounted Police became no longer necessary. Accordingly a small detachment of the force under Inspector White Fraser was detailed to return to Regina. With this Unit, we were attached as transport equipment. Our special charge along with other baggage was a green trunk containing all of Riel's correspondence. At that time Riel was a prisoner at the Mounted Police Barracks, Regina.

We reached Regina on June 4, 1885, having been on duty for seventy-two days in connection with the Riel uprising.

For some reason never fully explained, we were forwarded a settlement figured out on a basis of \$6.00 per day for each team while at Prince Albert, and \$10.00 per day while on the trail. Although not a combatant in one sense of the term, we have always felt that the duty assigned to us, that of foraging in enemy territory, was equally or even more exacting and hazardous than that of those who were in closer contact with hostilities. Combatant transport teams had all been paid at the rate of \$10.00 per day. However, as we were tendering on a Seven Thousand Dollar police hay contract at the time, and having been

obliged to deposit the cheque as security to the tender, we curbed our Scotch. Being successful, along with Mr. Beach, in our tender, the cheque being returned and the time for protest having lapsed, we figured that we were out about \$350.00.

The summer of 1885 proved to be a dry season. The quantity of hay called for in the police tender, five hundred tons to be delivered not later than September, was nowhere to be found in the neighborhood of Regina, but in those days we had to find our own employment or go without. Before tendering on the contract we mounted a work horse and scoured the country south of Regina for hay. We finally located a meadow of beautiful hay just west of Buck Lake about one-and-a-quarter miles long, and three-quarters of a mile in breadth, evidently containing the quantity necessary to fill the contract and situated about twenty-five miles from Regina. The meadow had one drawback, however, the previous year's growth of hay lay like a mat covering six inches at the roots of the new crop,--to secure the new crop without disturbing the old was our problem, to overcome this we thought of the old self-rake reaper, the cutting bar and table of which might be set above the old growth thus escaping the old bottom and delivering the new growth in uniform bundles and in rows along the meadow. Fortunately Mr. Kerby, the only settler within ten miles of the meadow, had a reaper which he agreed to try out and which we found to work perfectly without disturbing the old refuse.

Joining forces with Mr. Beach we then tendered and received the contract at \$14.00 per ton, ploughed a trail to the meadow to avoid the hummocks, also ploughed a fire guard around the meadow, built a cook house and sleeping quarters at Buck Lake and hired Mr. Kerby with his reaper and also two others secured elsewhere. Then we put a number of teams on the road,

these teams making a trip every two days, hauling two tons to the load. By close attention to detail, Mr. Beach at the Regina end, and myself at the meadow, we succeeded in cleaning up the contract in about six weeks to the satisfaction of the police and ourselves, also, as contractors. Just as we were leaving the meadow one of these prairie fires common in the autumn came in from the south and swept the entire country leaving it a blackened mass as far as the eye could reach.

In our comings and goings to the barracks at the time, we very often saw the prisoner, Riel, taking his constitutional, pacing to and fro on a pathway worn down by daily use. Very often he appeared to be engaged in prayer with his hands extended over his head. There was an armed guard at each end of the pathway. At the historic trial of Riel and the Indian Chiefs, Big Bear, and Poundmaker, we were subpoenaed as a juror in the case of Poundmaker. When it came to the point "Juror look at the prisoner; prisoner look at the juror," Poundmaker shook his head refusing us as a juror.

Although not a witness to the execution of Riel, memory recalls the morning of Nov. 16, 1885; a heavy autumn fog hung in the atmosphere over the town, as Sheriffs Gibson of Ottawa, and Benson of Regina, Dr. Cotton and a number of others drove up to the barracks about 7:30 o'clock in the morning, the trap being sprung at 8:30 a.m. John Henderson a Scotchman and a former prisoner of Riel's, in the first uprising, his wife being a halfbreed woman, did duty as hangman for which the Sheriff paid him fifty dollars.

We have understood that the body was then quietly taken charge of by P. Bonneau, Sr., and one or two others and buried temporarily in the basement of the first Catholic Church built in Regina, situated



at the corner of Cornwall and 12th Ave. Some weeks later, during the winter, Pascal Bonneau, Jr., whom I knew very well, interviewed me in regard to assisting him in loading a heavy box onto a car then standing near the Albert Street crossing, the box to arrive about 11 p.m. the same evening. At the hour named, Mr. Bonneau arrived driving a pony and jumper, with the box. After placing the box in the car and fastening the door, we asked Mr. Bonneau what the box contained. He replied that it contained the body of Riel, and that he was himself accompanying the body which was to be buried in Riel's former home town. He also asked me to treat the matter as strictly confidential. This we did until recently, when a wrong version of the incident appeared in the press.

As to settlements surrounding Regina during the dry cycle centering around '85 and '86, settlement to the north became firmly established and made substantial progress, as this district was somewhat better served by surface and spring water. As to the South, the sloughs had begun to dry up, hence water became a serious problem. First settlers, most unmarried, many of them being adventurous abandoned their homesteads on the plains and moved elsewhere thus leaving much of the land available for rehomesteading.

With the passing of time, these lands were found to be very productive and gradually became occupied by a fine class of people many of whom came from the South at the time the Soo Line was connected up with "The twin cities" across the border. As to our own homestead, having completed the duties less that of residence, we made a proposition to purchase at one dollar per acre, that being permissible at that time. Our offer was accepted by the Government. Still clinging to our idea of sharing in both town and country development, we purchased a business site well out in the outskirts at that time, on the corner of Albert

and South Railway Streets. We proceeded to sink a well and erect the necessary buildings and corrals to handle farm animals. We were fortunate in getting a real good well of water which continued to do duty for that part of the town, until the city system was laid.

During the winter following the Riel uprising we were asked by the Mounted Police at Regina to convey to the Post at Prince Albert 13,000 pounds of supplies, with the request that we should go along with the teams, in charge. I accordingly selected four good teams, (two of which were Mr. Beach's) and three men. Leaving Regina on the 16th day of January in 40° below zero weather, going by way of Fort Qu'Appelle and following the telegraph line and mail trail by way of Batoche to Prince Albert, we made the trip in 28 days camping out all the time with the exception of our short stay at the Police Post at Prince Albert.

Our camping system was to try to reach a bluff every night. To shelter our horses we removed the snow with shovels down to the grass in the shelter of the bluff, banked up the snow for further shelter, blanket-ed the horses with two covers each, one under and one over the harness. If no water was convenient we melted snow in a sheet-iron tub. For our own shelter we followed the same plan of digging down to the grass, completing the structure by throwing a heavy canvas over our snow bedroom. What with hay and robes, in addition to a log fire at our feet, we spent the night in such degree of comfort as one may imagine. During early years of settlement oxen were the main farm power used in breaking up the prairie sod. In the meantime the oxcart being a slow means of travel from place to place, quite a demand developed on each farm for a sturdy saddle pony, or "a pair" for the buckboard. To meet this demand the nearest point of supply was the territory of Montana.

In the spring of '86 three enterprising spirits with similar ambition decided to go to Montana together. Mr. Angus Lineham, a Mr. Anderson and myself made up the party. At Willow Bunch a Mr. Goudre, otherwise known as "Humpty," wished to join the party and act as guide. This we agreed to, he driving and the others riding. Willow Bunch no doubt having its beginnings in the days of the Buffalo chase, was a Metis settlement. At that time, included in the settlement, were a number of white families and single men. Prominent among them were the Legare and Bonneau families the latter before mentioned in connection with the care of the body of Riel, they having moved to this point. Although Mr. Legare's wife was a Metis, this man, every inch a gentleman of the old French school, was looked upon as the guiding spirit of the settlement. Mr. Legare at that time conducted the Post Office, a supply store, and as well, the nucleus of a horse and cattle ranch. Twelve years later we bought Mr. Legare's entire herd of cattle, 1200 head, together with many hundreds from the Bonneau family. Mr. Legare's services in the interests of law and order both in control of the Metis during the Riel rebellion and in his influence over Sitting Bull after the Custer Massacre and his return to Montana have never been properly recognized by either the Canadian or the American government.

On leaving Willow Bunch our guide took a westerly course to Wood Mountain, a Mounted Police Post having telegraph connection with the outside world. We then stood off due west for about 3 days; then, leaving the Cypress hills to our right, we turned southwest, crossing the Milk River. Here we came in contact with a herd of swine, about 1000 in number, running at large in the valley of the river. These swine were feeding on rattle snakes and refuse from the military post close by, -- Fort Assiniboia by name.

In checking possible resources from surface indications, the country covered from the Dirt Hills west to

the Milk River crossing, impressed us as being mainly suited to grazing, although certain areas appeared to lack water. The occasional small stream crossed appeared to originate in the Cypress Hills and flow south towards the Milk.

As we approached the Montana Boundary vegetation became somewhat scanty, with stretches of cactus and sage brush showing up, while ground life also changed somewhat. Instead of the common gopher, large numbers of prairie dogs, also numbers of rattlesnakes, were seen. On reaching Fort Assiniboia we parted with our guide, he having decided to do business with the Gros Ventre Indians in the Milk River Reserve close by, while we continued up country to Fort Benton on the Missouri River, a frontier town of considerable importance being the head of navigation on the river. Great horse-drawn freight caravans operated from this point up country to Fort Helena, the Capital, and smaller points over the territory.

While getting our bearings at Fort Benton we made our headquarters at the Overland Hotel, owner Chas. Rowe by name. Here we met ranchers coming and going continually, which gave us an opportunity to form some idea of the character of the people, and to learn of the doings of the frontier, reports of which had been reaching Western Canada ever since the Mounted Police took control. In our contact with these people, extending over several seasons doing business in horses in a fairly large way over an extended area, we discovered a subtle undercurrent of conduct among certain of the ranching and cowboy elements very difficult to reconcile with our conception of law and order in Canada. South of the border the frontier spirit, without proper State control, evidently developed to a point where each man was more or less a law unto himself, his authority being his gun carried constantly either on his person or on his saddle, while on the range and on the trail.

Horse and cattle rustling became a common practice, to deal with which, Vigilance Committees were at times formed by ranchers, the personnel of which were not always above suspicion themselves. These committees were known to have captured supposed thieves weighted them down with stones and thrown them into the Missouri, or to have strung them up to trees, without even a semblance of trial. During our second visit to Montana we met an ex-mounted policeman, Edwin Coldwell by name, at that time handling a 20-horse freight outfit, his home location being on the Marias River north of Fort Benton. By invitation we stayed with him over night. Evidently he had heard of us while in the force in Canada; also of our party some months before while we were covering his section of the country in search of horses. In confidence he advised us not to go unarmed, and not to carry sums of money on our person through the country, as reports were current that this had been our practice. Before parting we agreed to bring him a pure-bred horse from Canada, the following spring, for which we were to get in exchange a number of his buckskin teams. In Regina the following winter I noticed an item in the press copied from a Fort Benton paper stating that Edwin Coldwell had been shot to death while driving toward his ranch on the Marias with a pair of his buckskin horses.

A frontier incident or two by the way:

In the summer of '86 while covering the Sun River district in search of horses suited to our needs in Western Canada, we called at a village named Choto on Sun River. In checking up our bearings we came in contact with an intelligent halfbreed who appeared to know the district and the ranchers in the neighborhood. In our interview he inquired if we were from Canada. We replied that we were. He then said that he also was from that country,--from Batoche, on the Saskatchewan River,--Gabriel Dumont by name. Knowing that a reward had been offered for his capture in Canada, on returning

we informed Commissioner Erwin where he was. The Commissioner replied "Sinton, we don't want him, leave him where he is! In regard to the reward, that was meant for effect."

Incident No. 2: Before leaving Sun River Valley we purchased a number of horses from a rancher named John Henderson, a Scotchman by birth. We then proceeded eastward to Birch Creek, a small hamlet supporting a store and half a dozen houses. Here we prepared to stay over night. We were soon approached by a delegation demanding to see our Bill of Sale. We were informed that they were a Vigilance Committee determined to suppress thieving on the range. They then pointed to two birch trees on which they said they had hung two horse thieves the previous year, these men having stolen 200 head of horses and mules from the Galt Coal Company of Lethbridge. Just then John Henderson drove up and demanded by what authority we were being questioned as "these men bought and paid for their horses!" We knew that the story of the theft and the hanging of the Galt Company horse thieves was correct, as the Canadian Mounted Police had reported the matter when they recovered the horses and mules in Montana later. The Mounted Police records also showed that Chas. Thomas, one of the Vigilance Committee above-mentioned had done time in Canada for horse theft.

Frontier Incident No. 3: On our second trip in 1886 we decided to leave our collection of horses in the foothills of the Rockies in Montana in preference to wintering them at Regina. We selected two good saddle horses, a pack horse and one or two others that were related and inclined to follow, and proceeded homeward from the neighborhood of Great Falls by way of Fort Assiniboia, Maple Creek and east, making about 50 miles a day. On reaching the Milk River Crossing we made preparations to spend the night there, as the

following 50 miles, known as "No-man's-land," on each side of the boundary, was at that time without water. Seeing the full moon rising we decided it was going to be a beautiful night and we might as well keep on going. During the night we were on the alert passing over the territory where American and Canadian authority met and at times overlapped. When about half way over "No-man's-land" we noticed a horseman approaching with a rifle strapped to his back. When he noticed us he placed it in position to use. At that time we also were armed. We expected that if he was looking for trouble he might make a detour and swing within rifle distance if the outline of the locality favored him. In this, however, we were mistaken as he came right along until we met. After the usual greetings we asked him which way he was traveling. He being a halfbreed, replied in broken English, "I am going to Judith Basin, Montana". We then asked him where he had come from. He replied "From Regina." He had secured his land scrip, he having been through the Riel uprising. When we asked if he had any trouble getting it now, being a resident in Montana, he replied "I not tell him that." After some further conversation we asked him when we would strike water. He pointed to the moon then about due south and described a quarter circle to about due west, and said, "You reach water then." We parted, each going his own way, no doubt relieved at the friendly nature of the midnight interview in "No-man's-land."

Frontier Incident No. 4: The following season '87 Mr. E. Henry and the writer were again crossing over "No-man's-Land" with a band of horses going north. It being rather late in the evening, we were pushing forward in order to reach water before making camp. In the dusk of the evening we noticed six mounted men galloping toward us, each man armed with a rifle. We left Henry in charge of the horses and galloped forward to meet them. As we approached they surrounded us and demanded to know who we were and whose horses

these were. Before I could answer one of them shouted "Hello, Sinton." Then they all had a good laugh, and admitted the joke was on them. One of them had seen me go south in the spring; they were on round-up duty and had taken us for Indian horse-thieves and were intending to make a capture. After apologies they invited us to supper. They had fresh roast beef as a treat.

It is interesting to recall having forded the Missouri River with horses, several times, at a point where the City of Great Falls is now located. First indications of building were noticed in the fall of '87, the Northern Pacific Railway having reached that point on its way west that season, although it was away to a great start the following year.

Memory also recalls having met a Mr. Robert Vaughan a Welshman by birth, a rancher on Sun River, with whom we had business dealings in horses in a fairly extensive way. Mr. Vaughan being then the owner of 160 acres of land where the city of Great Falls now stands, tried to have us join him in the ownership of that property in '86, at a very reasonable valuation, but being deeply interested in another city in the making, we decided not to join Mr. Vaughan at that time. We learned later that his venture turned out equal to his expectations.

#### Frontier Roadhouse Incident:

While making our '87 drive homeward between Fort Benton and Fort Assiniboia, we encountered one of those midsummer thunder storms sometimes experienced on the prairies which continued for several hours filling up all dry water courses and live streams bank full. Coming to a stage station, or road house, as sometimes named, we forced our horses across a swollen creek, Box Alder, by name. Not being swimmers we hesitated to follow in the inky darkness on our saddle horses. We decided to find shelter in the road house and take chances



on our horses recrossing the stream toward their home range before daylight.

On rapping at the door about 10 p.m., we received no reply. We again knocked, when the door was opened slightly and something pressed against our ribs in the darkness, with an order "No further!" We then realized that we were up against a gun and on asking for accommodation for the night a voice replied, "Not here, go to the barn," which we did, there spending a very comfortless night. Next morning Dutch Henry recognized us as having gone up country some weeks before, and as we had breakfast together he did not look so dangerous after all.

Sunshine followed the rain, and the swollen streams subsided quickly. As we pushed forward the youngsters in the herd lagged somewhat owing to soft footing and hot sunshine. Making a halt to feed and rest the foals, as we circled around the herd, we noticed that the place was alive with rattlesnakes coiled up in the sunshine. They had been flooded out of their ground crevices by the thunder storm. After shooting one or two, and securing the "rattles" as souvenirs of the experience, we hurried away from that part.

Maple Creek being our port of entry the Mounted Police at that post examined our horses to get a record of the brands and to collect Customs Duties, a receipt being given on the regular Canadian Customs forms. In Montana we entered Customs with our pure-bred horses at Fort Benton, with this difference, however; there we were given no receipt, being assured, when we asked for one, that we would not require it.

In the early years of settlement in Western Canada that sense of security on reaching Canadian Mounted Police jurisdiction, while passing to and

fro between Uncle Sam's domain and Canada, required to be experienced in order to be fully appreciated. South of the boundary that undisciplined frontier spirit, whose final court of appeal on the range was the gun, the rope, or the Vigilance Committee, was entirely reprehensible to the British mind. It was interesting to notice, however, as a section of this element drifted north with the livestock movement, and became subject to mounted police and Canadian jurisdiction, these men as a rule developed into law-abiding citizens of the range in Western Canada.

Towards the later 80's the movement of livestock from the South, not only in horses but also in cattle and sheep, had assumed considerable proportions, more particularly to the ranching territory. Some apprehension began to be felt by constructive minds, in regard to the suitability of such numbers of American range-bred animals of indifferent breeding, as foundation stock for Western Canada. This resulted in customs and health regulations at the boundary being checked up closely, and there was also a tightening up of the grazing lease situation by the Federal Government.

As settlements began to taste the first fruits of successful production, private enterprise also began to waken up. Immigration continued to pour in following the lead of railway construction, thus opening up great new areas to settlement. In checking the livestock industry, as settlement proceeded, it became evident that there was now development from two great angles; first, the domestic or farm angle; secondly, the open range angle. As confidence in the country became fully established, public sentiment called for a greater degree of discrimination making for permanency in the agricultural structure. A higher standard was demanded with a view to keeping abreast of market competition both at home and abroad.

During the early history of the West, economic conditions were less strenuous than we are experiencing today. Immigration, railway construction and general pioneer development created a local bearing supplementary to wheat production that tended to balance supply and demand during a decade or more, until the year '91 since known as "The year of the big crop," when this Canadian product began to attract world-wide attention.

True we had our weather cycles then as now,-- summers dry, moderate, or wet, in periods, with our winter extremes in temperature which to some extent affected the economic barometer of the times; however, we experienced no economic deadlock. Although direct relief was not known in those days the policy of supplying seed grain by the Federal Government to settlers following dry seasons, was introduced during the early 80's. Unfortunately, along with that seed came two of our common weeds known as French weed and yellow mustard. Some authorities claim that these weeds proved to be a blessing in disguise as they were responsible for introducing the practice of summerfallow which system has been followed with greater or less success for more than half a century.

The late Angus McKay, first superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, was honored as the father of the principle of summerfallow as a weed eradicator and conserver of moisture in land tillage in the West. A life-sized painting of Angus McKay now appears in Convocation Hall, Saskatchewan University, as a monument to scientific research in agriculture which will be an inspiration to the student body, while the institution stands. Among other methods tried out at that time to overcome the drought problem might be mentioned the sprinkling cart. The Sir Lester Kay Land Company operating a line of farms situated along the C.P.R. from Balgonie to Namaka, now in

Alberta, equipped a fleet of sprinkling carts and tried out this method on their grain fields for one season. Needless to say the experiment was not continued.

- Situated as Regina was, prior to railway competition in her early history, and landlocked to a greater extent than any other Provincial or State Capital on the continent, our single line of railway held within her grasp our very existence and to some extent our destiny as a coming metropolis,—happy indeed the hamlet on which she cast her favor in those days!

Being the capital of a great territory extending 700 miles from eastern to western boundary, Regina naturally expected to become a Divisional Point on the Railway; however, in this Regina was disappointed, Moose Jaw being made the recipient of this favor. Efforts later to make Regina the western terminal of the Soo Line, also miscarried, resulting in that point 45 miles distant becoming a railway and industrial rival to the capital.

Nevertheless Regina continued to take her rebuffs and her honors characteristic of the times, with dignity becoming her position, and as she began to fully realize the latent wealth of which her isolated setting proved to be the center, later to become the beautiful "City of the Plains" doing duty as the clearing house of law and order to fifty thousand people at the half century mark, Regina has every reason to be proud of her slogan "Floreat Regina."

Immigration to the Regina district during the later 80's appeared to swing heavily in favor of the foreign element. Such names as Strasburg, Elenwold, and Kronau, indicating the origin of birth, have since become household names in Saskatchewan. Much of the area occupied by these people, considered second choice

by first settlers, have since become some of the most prosperous communities of the province. Part of what is known as the bluff country north of Regina, first settled by Scottish crofters and later abandoned, is now occupied by these thrifty people. A section of their numbers, more particularly those of Russian origin, were inclined to locate in colonies operating farms from their community villages. No doubt this custom had its social advantages in their pioneer lives, in contrast with the Canadian system of individual settlement.

In our business of supplying farm animals to the trade in those days, we came constantly into contact with new comers of foreign origin, outfitting them with farm animals for their homesteads. In many cases we formed associations then that have never since been forgotten. The different nationalities with their native customs of doing business, became a problem in Canada. Their system of bargaining, and our system of fixed prices, resulted in much coming and going in groups, the interpreter doing Trojan duty in the attempt to reconcile European and Canadian thrift in our business methods, to cooperative terms.

During the decade of the 90's the big crop of '91 proved to be a great drawing card for Western Canada, and the Regina district shared to the limit in this forward movement, a common yield that season being 40 to 45 bushels of wheat to the acre. This bountiful crop resulted in still further standardizing the great plain as a permanent grain-producing area. An occasional big modern farm house or bank barn began to make its appearance in the district. Farmers whose horizon had begun to broaden with the outlook, quietly commenced to acquire vacant C.P.R. lands adjoining their own, sometimes forestalling next door neighbors having similar designs, who, on "getting wise", became busy on next choice, result-

ing at times in the members of a community engaging in a stealthy stampede for the purchase of these vacant lands.

The price set on these lands by the company at that time ran from \$2.50 to \$4.50 per acre which to an extent set the standard of all farm land values where the railway controlled odd-numbered sections.

However, its earning power being the true basis of all land values, as western wheat production found favor in the world's markets in unlimited measure, subject certainly to the whims of the economic barometer, 1891 marked a gradual change in the Regina district, from free homestead and vacant land values, to values based on production and market demand.

It is interesting now to recall that on this foundation (that of land and production) the greatest financial structure in Canadian history was erected in Western Canada, well within the half century mark, production in 1928 reaching the enormous market value of about six hundred million dollars and land values running to one hundred dollars per acre for cultivated farms, and sixty-five dollars per acre for raw lands in the Regina district.

To many the '91 crop presented the first opportunity to visit the old home since coming west, though some were held over to the first of the year '92 owing to threshing having been held up by shortage of machines. Stacking, however, being the rule in the early years, when threshing was delayed grain was fully protected.

In view of the special effort necessary in these winter threshings, memory recalls threshing part of the 1891 crop by horsepower, finishing about 6,000 bushels of Red Fife on Jan. 1, 1892, in forty below



weather. The first duty in the morning was digging the machine out of the snow and lighting up a fire to thaw out the oil in order to get the machine limbered up for a start. The horses had to be cared for before daylight and taken to water possibly a mile away. In order to keep moving every man required to know his place and to be alive. Our last settings being on leased property and being short of granary room, the farm shack was used to store the last half day's threshing, finishing up by the light of a straw stack fire. We moved to town after 6 p.m. when sister had a turkey supper awaiting. My, did we enjoy that supper! No New Year's banqueting party more so! The following day, in response to an invitation from "home", we joined the procession eastward.


As the spring season approached and the boys began to return, it was interesting to notice the trend of their ambitions by the variety of the effects brought back. Some brought "settlers effects"; some a few pure-bred animals; a few brought life partners, and others returned empty handed. We brought horses, evidently being too dense to appreciate an opportunity presented at one or two house parties gotten up, we learned later, for our special benefit. However, being one of those inclined to look for a second chance we succeeded better on our second visit five years later.

During the late summer of '92 the West experienced an epidemic of prairie or typhoid fever, not then so well understood as now by medical science. A similar epidemic was experienced again in 1903, men appearing to be more subject to these attacks than women in both town and country. Many single men, strong, sturdy fellows, passed on, victims to this pioneer disease. The 1903 attack was so severe in town that isolation accommodation had to be provided at the exhibition buildings for the numbers stricken, the writer was among the number affected in '92.

Evidently 1891 marked the crest of a favorable economic wave at that period, as adverse economic pressure following '91 gave birth to an agrarian movement, known as the Patrons of Industry, having its origin in Eastern Canada and taking form in the West about '93, its main object being closer commercial contact between producer and consumer. Their expansion policy also had in view the manufacture of the primary needs of the farmers, in the processing of our natural products suitable to our transportation and market demand both at home and abroad. In order to put a broad policy of this nature into effect it was felt that it would be necessary to enter the political field; this move proved their undoing and as the economic tide took a favorable turn, the movement gradually passed into history.

The economic pinch of the '90's was felt in about equal terms in town and country as no fixed policy of "Relief" was then in effect. Dr. Willoughby, Mayor of Regina in '93, and others, inaugurated a voluntary relief scheme in the form of a weekly entertainment known as the "Penny Readings," which really meant a goodwill collection, the programme being of a voluntary nature contributed by local talent. Although only an expedient, it appeared to tide the situation over at that time.

1895 saw in Regina the first Dominion Fair held in the Territories though not by any means the first Fair held in the Capital. The first was held in '84 and continued to be held annually in the downtown section, partly under canvas and partly in the open, until '95. Wm. White first representative for the Regina district in the North West Council, was Secretary Manager in '84. The Hon. Chas. McIntosh at that time Lieutenant Governor of the Territories, appeared to be the leading spirit, along with the Exhibition Association of that date, in sponsoring the Dominion Exhibition held in '95.





A generous grant was secured from the Dominion Government; a valuable site arranged for from the town-site trustees, the necessary buildings, pens and stalls erected, and an attractive program outlined. This showed the future standard for the Territories and the Provinces that followed, and laid the foundation for the great million dollar plant that has since been developed on the original site.

During the middle nineties, beef production in the West had overtaken market demand in Canada. The only solution appeared to be the choice of two export markets, one the British market five thousand miles distant, at that time subject to restricted slaughter regulations; the other the American market subject to changing tariff restrictions. In consequence, through representations by the Dominion Government, and the C.P.R., with the British authorities, extensive live-stock dockage facilities were established at Glasgow, Liverpool, and London, opening up a market to Western Canadian cattle abroad.

The C.P.R., ever on the alert to future traffic possibilities, with a view to a systematic marketing contact between Western Canada and the British Market, persuaded two young men of that period then doing business in live stock, Messrs. Gordon and Ironsides of Morden, Manitoba, to undertake this new enterprise. With headquarters at Winnipeg, with the promise of protection against serious loss in their first attempt at least. Competition by Eastern Canadian exporters who had already become established at home, together with other firms in the West, quickly developed.

The American demand at that time called mainly for Canadian feeders, the choice of which later found their way to the British market as finished corn-fed American exports, in direct competition with Canadian range grass cattle. Suffice it to say that, between

these two export markets, subject at all times to the changing political vagaries of their import regulations, the Western Canadian Beef industry has lived down many market rebuffs, during the first half-century of its development, with the British Market yet offering possibly the greatest permanency,--quality and finish being the main factors in maintaining a constant demand for our products in that market.

In the allotment of territory covering the Prairie Provinces, we were persuaded to join the firm of Gordon & Ironsides as their purchasing representative along the C.P.R. from Regina to Medicine Hat, with a guarantee of a certain fixed price per pound weighed and graded off cars in Winnipeg. As this business association continued from 1893 to 1902 we were, in consequence, brought into much closer contact with the industry in all its aspects, mixed farm, open range, and market outlook.

Looking backward to that period, evidently the economic trend must have been on the up-grade with immigration still pouring into the country,--railway, agricultural and industrial expansion were evident on all sides. Naturally men in their prime found great scope for their activities in their special spheres. As great areas of new country became occupied, hamlets, grain elevators, and villages appeared to come into view over night, thereby throwing back a hum of business activity to the established centers, in the forwarding of supplies and equipment necessary to new settlement. Regina apparently shared to the limit in the development, as she was at one time reported to be the greatest distributing point, in farm machinery, in the world.

As agricultural and livestock production developed and appeared to find favor in the markets of the world, the spirit of adventure due to untried conditions gradually disappeared and confidence became

firmly established. It became evident that Canada's great inland empire--had become a fixed reality and well away to world recognition.

As a result public sentiment became standardized and the tentative outlook, both individual and collective was replaced by permanent policies. This sentiment, after mature consideration, resulted in bringing the two mid-west provinces into confederation in 1905.

### Personal

Having reached middle life or better, in 1897,-- 19 years of which had been spent much in the open next to nature, away from the comforts of home life and having covered the country between Winnipeg and the foothills, and south into Montana by saddle-horse, buckboard, or rail,--many times over, thoughts of a more settled life prompted a second visit to the old home district. On this visit a former schoolmate, at that time a school teacher, Christina Campbell McEwen by name, consented to share with us, western life on the great open spaces. Three children followed: William Robert, Christine, and Bessie. In due time there were four grandchildren; three, the children of William Robert Sinton and Kathleen Foster, his wife,--Sheila Katherine, Robert Michael and Judith Moyra; and one child the daughter of Jack Kenneth Sexton and Bessie Sinton, his wife,--Elizabeth Mary; Murray Thomson and Christine Sinton, his wife, married seven years had no children. Today after forty years of married life, wife and I are again alone tending a precious plot of flowers in the churchyard in memory of dear Christine who passed on to another realm June 11, 1933, aged 34 years; also keeping in long distance touch with those dear ones who remain, as we attend the ordinary duties of life from day to day.

In the autumn of '93 Mr. Pope Balderson a recent arrival from Prince Edward Island, having secured a beef contract from the Mounted Police at Regina, required animals to fill his contract. As we were engaged in handling live cattle, Mr. Balderson proposed a tentative partnership in filling the police contract. This partnership was agreed to in verbal form, and the contract carried out. The partnership was continued in the purchase and sale of livestock for eight years under the name of Balderson & Sinton. However, as Mr. Balderson was subject to a disability (that of near-sightedness) he was obliged to confine his activities to the domestic areas for close inspection as to size and weight, thereby restricting our partnership very largely to the semi-domestic areas, whereas our contract with Gordon & Ironsides covered a large range territory, west of the domestic area referred to. Nevertheless we found individual interests identified with the livestock industry that occupied all our attention throughout the year. Mr. Balderson died of pneumonia in the winter of 1901-2. His brother and Mr. H. C. Lawson were named executors, and during the following summer our company cattle were all marketed, and the partnership, in many respects one of mutual trust, became a passing memory.

As the production of wheat moved up the scale in the West during the 90's before the introduction of Marquis, large quantities of frosted wheat became a problem on the market. The winter grain feeding of cattle and the production of hogs in greater numbers appeared to offer a solution, the export market for grain-fed beef and the home market for bacon products being favorable at that time. As a result a grain-feeding movement of considerable proportions took place over the country where conditions favored such a move. As to shelter, some built bank barns, some sheds, others fed in the open in sheltered places where water was handy.

In an endeavor to adjust our activities of farm and livestock fittingly together, one had to consider continuity of effort, resources, markets, labor, etc. Winter being the slack period of the year, grain feeding appeared to fill in the blank season and fit our movements during the year to some purpose. In our autumn livestock clean-up the residue were usually feeders. These were, as a rule, finished during the winter, on roughage and grain from the farm. Shedding and water at the corner of South Railway and Albert Street in Regina gave accommodation for about 200 head each winter.

In our efforts to find a man to supervise the farm in the summer season and our livestock operations in the winter,--one who could handle men,--we finally secured a Scotchman, Mr. Wm. Milne by name. Coming to us in '95 he remained with us for thirty-five years, and never enquired what his salary was to be. Being single, he retired in 1930 when we leased our farm, to make his home with a married brother George, living in the city.

In rechecking our activities from the standpoint of a life partnership from '97 forward with a view to home responsibilities, citizenship, and keeping pace with the growing economic trend of the period, we cultivated visions of greater concentration of effort, from the home base, in the erection of a good house, and more commodious business premises and by taking some useful part in the conduct of the growing city's affairs. We also saw a great opportunity of raising the standard of the live stock industry while in its infancy in the West, by the introduction of pure-bred animals for breeding purposes. This aspect of the industry had been receiving some attention by the Federal Government and by constructive spirits throughout the country. In view of possibilities in the West,

a Federal Live Stock branch was created, a Dominion Live Stock Commissioner was appointed, and a policy of education and assistance in animal husbandry put into effect. Two winter or spring fairs, were inaugurated under the joint auspices of Territorial and Federal Governments, one at Regina and one at Calgary, the great incentive being the British market for three and four year old finished steers of good breeding.

In our livestock activities we very often had special orders in both the horse and the cattle divisions for pure-bred animals for breeding purposes, and in our observations, made a study of the breeds best suited in our judgment, both to open range and domestic areas, having in mind the possibility of our taking up the pure-bred section of the industry entirely, in the near future. We had several reasons for this move. In dealing in the market classes at that time there was an element of chance we did not like, the custom being to purchase on the range at a price per head agreed on with the rancher, and to sell by weight off cars in Winnipeg graded by purchaser at a price per pound set earlier in the season. The system of grading was faulty. If British markets were up, we had a higher percentage of exports; if markets were off, we had a lower percentage of exports, which made the difference between profit and loss, with a little more than an even chance in favor of the lower grade. However, apart from the seeming unfairness in the grading system which was really the safety valve of the export cattle trade in its infancy, Jim Gordon of the firm of Gordon & Ironside, Winnipeg, was a prince in his line of business, in his day. His charming personality as a business man drew trade toward the firm automatically. The partner, Ironsides, handled the shipping end of the firm's business in Montreal. Unfortunately both men died, comparatively young men, Mr. Gordon's trouble being diabetes. Our connection with the firm lasted for ten years -- from 1893 to 1902 inclusive.

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In our study of the pure-bred industry and its relation to animal husbandry in the West, possibly the first requisite was improvement in quality followed by hardihood and quick growth, easy fleshing and fine texture in the meat breeds in order to meet competition in the markets of the world. We also felt that our strategic position in the midwest where a market might be developed from the home base, was a great advantage; and, lastly, we felt its fascination as a business, and the opportunity to leave an imprint on the industry while it was yet plastic. During the last year or two of our connection with Gordon and Ironsides, the British import regulations, always subject to change, were tightened up. For a time, Canadian exports in light flesh had been permitted to finish on grass, the restriction being all Canadian cattle to be slaughtered in ten days, foot and mouth disease being named as the reason although never proven. The order reflected heavily on the Canadian grass cattle export trade, and may have indirectly benefited the grain-feeding division of the industry. In any case the argument was used that the British order was intended not only for home protection but also to give Canada an object lesson in qualifying the industry properly for the British market.

In the meantime we had been experimenting with a number of pure-bred Herefords, in our judgment at that time, the most suitable to range and semi-agricultural conditions, hardy and easy fleshers as they proved to be. As business grew and prospects improved, we gradually discontinued dealing in the market classes and increased the number of pure-breds to about a hundred breeding females. These increased rapidly until, including our sale animals, we carried up to 200 head. Our first animals were secured from William and John Sharman of Souris, Manitoba. Afterwards we secured many from some of the best herds in the State of Illinois and as far south as Kansas.

In '99 we purchased about 500 acres of land immediately south of the reservoir, situated on Sections 18-7-17-19 where the Parliament Buildings are now located. We bought this land in four parcels the price paid averaging about \$9.00 per acre. Around this land we built a substantial fence and here we ran our herd at pasture during the summer months.)

Having rearranged and partly rebuilt our business setting to fairly commensurate proportions with the object of establishing and becoming a recognized unit on our own responsibility, our presence at the home base was an important factor in keeping in close touch with the industry. The local sale for Herefords being mostly in the male line and seasonal in demand, in order to fully occupy our time we also handled farm horses, including an occasional pure-bred.

Regina was incorporated as a town in 1883 and as a city in 1903 with a population of 3,000. From this date forward although growth may have been intermittent, the city increased in population much faster; in 1906 the population was 6,169; in 1911 it was 30,213.

During the war years 6,500 local men enlisted, and the 1916 census showed a decrease to 26,127. Notwithstanding the war and its after-effects, the city maintained its record for steady growth, with the result that in 1926 her population was 37,329. The Department of Municipal affairs gave her population as 44,500 in '29. At the last Dominion census in 1931 the city's population was given as 53,034, and at present time of writing, Jan. 1st, 1935, it is estimated that Regina has held her own during the depression.

In 1900 we were persuaded to stand for election to the town council, being successful; and speaking from memory, remained in the council for 9 or 10 years.



The decade proved to be one of great growth and expansion in both the urban and rural life of the country, one of our greatest problems being to measure up to the responsibilities of the times, inured as we had become in a school of self-sufficiency and pioneer economy. Feeling as we did that the economic barometer was overdue for an uplift in this new land, the air was charged with constructive ideals, in fact (for better or worse) competition in the developing of new towns and cities throughout the land threatened at one time to become a sort of mania. The economic trend upward suffered a set-back about 1913 when many great projects throughout the country remained uncompleted, including the G.T.P. Hotel at corner of Albert St. and Sixteenth (College) Avenue, Regina.

1904 saw the installation of a permanent water and sewer system in the City. A dam had been constructed at Boggy Creek with the object of collecting the natural flow and the spring freshet also. In the construction of the pipe line connecting the city with the reservoir, a bountiful supply of underground spring water was struck and from that time to the present, by the help of artesian wells, the city enjoys the use of an underground supply of good water.

In 1905 Provincial Autonomy was effected, when the two provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta were carved out of the southern part of the Northwest Territories.

This necessitated the erection of a Provincial Government in each Province, also the selection of a Capital site and the erection of Legislative buildings and many other public institutions in both Provinces.

In 1906 during a session of the New Provincial Legislature the rivalry from other points, particularly Saskatoon, for the location of the Capital was so keen that Hon. Walter Scott, then premier, was

obliged to stake his political life in favor of Regina remaining the Capital of the new Province. Fortunately when a vote of the house was taken on the question a majority stood by the Premier in favor of Regina, and the question was settled.

In the meantime we had sold our property south of the reservoir, approximately 500 acres, to McCallum, Hill & Company, at \$225.00 per acre, and they in turn sold to the Government about 100 acres at a reported price of \$1000.00 per acre, as a site for the new Capital Buildings, the construction of which was started in 1908 at a cost of something like two million dollars when completed.

The sale of the above-mentioned land which had been used as summer range pasture for our Herefords, necessitated the disposal of our herd, 100 of which we sold to a Dr. Graham of the City at \$100.00 each, taking in payment three lots directly south of the present site of the Canada Life building at a valuation of ten thousand dollars. A few months later we sold this property at a valuation of \$35,000.00 practically cash.

I mention these things in passing in order to show those who follow, the trend of values during what has since been known as the Regina Boom period.

Reverting to 1903, our personal movements at that time included the erection of a modern house on Lots 13 - 14 Block 312. This house, a brick veneer, replaced what was then known as "The white house," a frame structure of good material, built by a Mrs. Doig in '83 the first dwelling-house west of Albert Street and abandoned ten years later, having stood empty for several years. About the year '95 we bought the property at about \$6.00 per foot frontage. In '03 we had the old house carefully dissected and the material used in the construction of our new home.

In addition to the above-named property and that on which our stables were situated, we purchased from time to time up to '28, Lots in Block 312, corner of Albert Street, and South Railway Street. We also continued to purchase and sell as time passed along, odd pieces of property in different parts of the city as opportunity offered. In 1903 we sold our homestead and a quarter-section adjoining which we had previously bought, selling to David M. Hackney of Regina, at a rate of \$20.00 per acre. We accepted a carload of farm horses in part payment.

We then moved the farm equipment, which was not very extensive, to the home base, and from here we had Mr. Milne continue with one outfit, to farm on the reservoir land, breaking about ninety acres, where the Parliament Buildings are now sitting. Here we experimented successfully with brome grass, and in 1905 threshed 80 acres of oats which averaged very close to 100 bushels to the acre.

In the early summer of 1904 we were in Calgary with a car lot of sale Herefords. While there we wrote Wm. Milne to come forward with our show herd to the Calgary Summer Fair. A few days later we received a telegram from Milne advising that the car had caught fire while on the way near Caron, and the eight head along with the car, were burned. This disaster proved to be a keen disappointment as the lot included not only some of our choice females but also our herd sire, an outstanding animal. We took the matter up with the Railway Company in regard to compensation but without success. We then entered suit on the advice of our solicitor, T. C. Johnston. The day before the hearing Mr. Johnston advised me that the C.P.R. Claims Agent wished to see me. On doing so he proposed a settlement. Our claim was \$3200.00; we were offered \$2,500 as settlement in full with the

proviso that a statement be inserted in the press, that a satisfactory settlement had been reached. On the advice of our solicitor we accepted this settlement and closed the matter out.

In 1905 during the Spring Fair held under canvas near the J. I. Case Building at that time on South Railway Street adjacent to the C.P.R. track, a meeting of live stock men in attendance was held in the Case Building, at which the Provincial Live Stock Breeders' Association, the first in the Province, was formed. The new association included the four main breeds,-- horses, cattle, sheep and swine under one head.

In accepting the presidency of the Association we realized our limitations, in view of the nature and volume of work necessary to its success. Some of the first duties were to find a Secretary-manager, select a Provincial location for the Fair and fix a date for the first show, prepare a prize list and figure out where the prize money was coming from. Then there was the question of the necessary buildings in which to hold a Provincial Fair in the winter season, the Capital seeming the logical place. When this point was fixed upon as the location, some disappointment developed from one or two other centers in the Province. Being on the City Council we laid the matter fully before them and in order to allay outside feeling and hold the Provincial Fair in the Capital, the City Council responded by the erection of a Winter-fair building and stabling costing \$20,000.00. As the Fair outgrew the first building it was replaced by one costing \$125,000.00 the Stock Breeder's Association, and the Provincial Department of Agriculture acting in cooperation as the Winter Fair Board, the Department supplying the Secretary-Manager, George Harcourt by name. There

was also, a generous annual grant from the Provincial Government. The Association and the Winter Fair were then both away to a very encouraging start.

Acting in the dual capacity of first president to both of these provincial institutions, the position appeared to give us, personally, fresh inspiration as to our responsibility and the opportunity to continue to lead in at least one branch of the industry. This, notwithstanding what appeared to be a milestone in our activities, in the fact that we had reached the half century mark or better, also that we had come into possession of some considerable means through the sale of the Legislative Building site and other properties, we debated, as to whether we might clean up the balance of our properties and retire; otherwise, continue in some special line of animal husbandry. We finally decided that to one who had been active for a quarter of a century in pioneer construction, in basic development the former policy would be distasteful and idle, in face of such demands during a period of great expansion. Our keenest interest having a leaning towards the horse division of the industry, we decided to visit Scotland, the World's nursery for the famous Clydesdale breed of horses.

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Letters such as the following from the Government of the day showed the cooperative spirit of the times, in regard to improvement, not only in the use of purebred foundation stock, but also pure seed, these being the two basic products of the West, -- Live Stock and Grain.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
SASKATCHEWAN

Regina, June 1, 1908.

Robt. Sinton, Esq.,  
Regina, Sask.

Dear Mr. Sinton:

I have just learned of your intended visit to Great Britain and France with a view to the importation of some pure bred stock to add to your present stud and herd.

I am pleased to learn that as president of the Saskatchewan Stock Breeders' Association, you are not content merely to occupy the highest office in the gift of your fellow breeders but are determined to lead the way in the matter of live stock improvement. I sincerely hope that you may have a pleasant and profitable trip, and that when you return the Province will be the richer by a goodly number of choice breeding animals, which your skill and experience as a breeder and dealer should enable you to select wisely and well.

Yours truly,  
(Signed) W. R. MOTHERWELL  
Commissioner of Agriculture

On visiting the Scottish Highland Show, the Court of Last Appeal in setting the standard of the Clydesdale breed, and inspecting the finished progeny doing duty on the farms and the streets of their cities, we got busy selecting an importation suitable in our judgment to the Western Canadian trade. In making our selections we became associated with Montgomery Bros., of Kirkcudbright, known, aside from competitors, as the gentlemen of the trade. Mr. Wm. Montgomery in our opinion, was in a class by himself in the Scottish Clydesdale trade, just as James Gordon was in the live stock trade in Western Canadian History. We continued in touch with the Montgomery Brothers during our whole experience in the importing of Clydesdales from Scotland.

During our 1908 visit to Scotland we received a cablegram from the Premier of Saskatchewan, Honorable Walter Scott, asking us to return immediately and stand as a candidate for Lumsden Constituency in the Provincial Election which was being held that summer. This we refused to do. A second cablegram followed, which received the same answer as the first, and finally a third reached us, more pressing than the first two. In a moment of weakness we consented to return, and proved unsuccessful in the election. Our selection of horses was forwarded to Montreal, (by Robt. Ness, also a shipper, of Howick, Que.) where we took charge.

In January 1908 Dr. Rutherford, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, called a convention of the National Live Stock Association to be held at Ottawa on February 5, 6, and 7. At that Convention, being still President of the Saskatchewan Stock Breeders' Association we presented an address on "The Passing of the Range," having been asked to do so by the Commissioner some weeks prior to the convention. In view of the difficulties experienced by many settlers who have

been trying to farm on lands suited only to grazing purposes, I am reproducing a paragraph or two of my paper setting out recommendations in reference to the passing of the range in South Western Saskatchewan, our idea being, where agriculture and open range development threatened to meet and overlap, a system of extended mixed farming might have been introduced to suit the areas concerned.

"Extended Mixed Farming System:"

"Here we have large tracts of beautiful farming lands alternating with great stretches of grazing lands, and this very fact makes it necessary that we devise a system suited to our peculiar conditions. I have thought that at some period perhaps not far distant in the evolution of our farming and stock raising methods in the West, large organizations of farmers would band together and lease a considerable tract of grazing land where they could run their stock in the summer months on the cooperative plan. Some plan such as the following might be worked out with advantage to all concerned in the West:

Saskatchewan Municipalities: It is expected that the Province of Saskatchewan will be organized into Municipalities of uniform size, to consist of nine townships in the form of a square. Alberta, no doubt, will in all probability adopt a similar municipal division. Now if our grazing lands could be set aside by the government and arrangements made whereby municipalities in the farming area could each lease a similar division in the adjoining grazing area, these leases could then be fenced and fire-guarded and a rider put in charge of each division. The farmer's cattle and young horses could be collected early in the spring and sent out to the municipal range to graze during the summer months, to be brought home in the fall in prime condition, having



cost the owners comparatively little. The municipalities could charge each farmer taking advantage of the municipal range, say, \$1.00 per head for the season, in order to pay lease charges, fencing and labor. Some such system as this would be of immense advantage to the wheat grower as this would furnish him with an additional source of revenue without in any way interfering with his grain-growing activities. It would act as an insurance against a partial or total crop failure. It would enable him in bad years like the present, 1907, to feed his low-grade grain, instead of marketing it at ruinously low prices."

Today, 1935, the above recommendation is interesting in view of the number of settlers who have been utterly defeated in their farming operations during the last five years of drought in the areas referred to, both Governments, Federal and Provincial being at their wits end in dealing with the present tragic situation.

In 1909 the Saskatchewan Stock Breeders' Association was superseded by the organization of the four Live Stock Associations, namely Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Swine, each under its own head, necessitating the formation of the Provincial Live Stock Board made up of the executives of the Breed Associations, representatives from the Department of Agriculture, the City Council, and the College of Agriculture.

Again we were elected President of the Provincial Live Stock Board, a position carrying with it a place on the Advisory Council to the Provincial College of Agriculture. Saskatoon, never having become reconciled to the location of the Provincial Winter Fair in the southern part of the Province, continued to make representations to the Government and Provincial Live Stock Board, for a division of the Government grants, with the object of setting

up a second Provincial Fair at that point. Whether political expediency entered into the question or not, Saskatoon finally won out, taking her place under the direction of the Provincial Live Stock Board, that city then having equal status with the Capital in the conduct of her Fair. During the formation period of our Breeders' Associations, say from 1905 to 1913, Western Canada experienced an exceptional wave of prosperity. As a result, money being plentiful, the Live Stock Industry received an impetus by way of importation, and the establishment of large studs, herds and flocks never before experienced in Canada.

Regarding appointment of first Provincial Live Stock Commissioner; we were asked by Hon. Walter Scott, the first premier of Saskatchewan for an expression of our views on the whole Live Stock situation at that time, we wrote the following letter which we reproduce with reply:

Regina, Jan. 5, 1910

Hon. Walter Scott,  
Regina, Sask.

Dear Sir:

With regard to the appointment of a Live Stock Commissioner for Saskatchewan, as brought to your attention by a resolution of the Provincial Winter Fair Board, passed at a meeting held on the evening of August 24th, 1909, and endorsed by the Provincial Live Stock Associations, a copy of which the Secretary was instructed to convey to yourself and each of your Ministers:-

(lotter continued)

The Provincial Fair Board believe that the present would be an opportune time for the appointment of such an official, he to have charge of what might be termed the Provincial Live Stock Branch, or Bureau of Animal Husbandry, under the direction of the Department of Agriculture.

The following are some of the reasons that might be advanced for this appointment:-

Saskatchewan being mainly an agricultural Province, Animal Husbandry should, of necessity, go hand in hand with grain production, that is to say, if full advantage is going to be taken of the rich natural resources of the Province in the way of stock and grain production, and at the same time profit by the experience of the older provinces and states where the virgin soil has become depleted by over crop production, the farmers being obliged to resort to dairying and other methods of Animal Husbandry in order to get a living from their farms. Animal Husbandry in connection with grain production should produce results directly in line with the conservation of our natural resources, as approved by the Canadian and American Governments in the recent appointment of their respective conservation commissions.

Our Provincial Live Stock Associations, being largely educational in their objects, have attracted to the membership lists a large majority of the pure bred breeders of the province in addition to others who take a lively interest in live stock matters in a general way. However, although our lists are open to all live stock breeders in Saskatchewan, possibly 90% of the stock growers (other than pure bred breeders) have no organization as such, they being largely influenced in their live-stock operations by environment and the commercial aspect of the question as affected by supply and demand in their own immediate districts. These interests, practically in their infancy, including many

(letter continued)

breeds of animals, both pure bred and grade, conducted by breeders of various nationalities scattered over the province, carried on under widely different surroundings in a Province situated geographically and under climatic conditions differing entirely from many countries coming into competition with it in the live stock markets of the world, apparently present many aspects requiring special consideration by some medium having general oversight whereby these scattered interests might be harmonized, stimulated, encouraged and directed into profitable market channels. The result, no doubt, would inspire confidence in the trade, and a dispelling of that distrust caused by unreliable markets and fear of over-production.

Markets -- Home and Export:

Horses: The demand for farm horses, created by the agricultural development going on in the Province, is such that it is apparently impossible to satisfy it. No doubt this demand will continue at remunerative prices for many years to come, and the effect should be a great stimulus to the horse breeding industry in Saskatchewan.

Cattle, sheep and swine being meat or food producing animals, the Home demand is regulated by the number of our population. In fresh and cured meats the Province possibly consumes, at present, about 250,000 pounds per day, or one half pound per capita per day during the year. A very large quantity of the cured meats consumed within the Province is at present imported, owing to the fact that no packing or curing facilities of any consequence are at present in operation in Saskatchewan. It must be apparent, then, if the Saskatchewan Live Stock Industry is going to be developed to a fraction of its possibilities, the export market will have to be looked to for an outlet for our overflow in live stock. At certain seasons

(letter continued)

Ontario might supply a market for a small number of animals such as feeders. However, the Mother Country, situated 4,700 miles distant, will likely be the chief market for many years to come.

United States statistics show that nearly all the good agricultural land in that country is now occupied. As a consequence the urban population is increasing much faster than the rural, the result being that the consumption of meat is increasing much faster than the supply. If this is a fact, then the United States may soon cease to be an exporter of Live Stock and meat products, and become an importer instead. It may not be the part of wisdom to scan the market horizon so far ahead, especially in connection with a country whose highly protected markets have forced business out of its natural channels and compelled Canada to cultivate a market with the Mother Country situated many thousands of miles distant. However, their attitude may prove to be a blessing in disguise to Canada, for the reason that if they are obliged to open their markets to the world we will then have the benefit of two markets for our exports instead of one as at present. I believe, in live stock circles especially, it is wise to watch the signs of the times carefully and shape our course accordingly, as it would take years of preparation increasing herds to meet a demand such as would be created by the opening of the United States markets to Canada. There are other influences, such as war between any of the great powers, which sometimes affect live stock markets very materially, although, as a rule, only for a time.

The educational features disclose many aspects of the industry, for example:

1. The effect of the use of high-class pure bred sires and dams when the foundation of the breeds is being laid.

(letter continued)

2. The effect of friendly rivalry as engendered by competition at Shows and Fairs.

3. The effect of environment on the various breeds of animals, resulting from the varying conditions found over the Province, some districts being specially suited to dairying, others to horse raising, while others may suit cattle, sheep and swine, or possibly all of the breeds.

4. The effect on the industry of the gradual change from open range to farm conditions. If the industry is affected adversely how can it be remedied?

5. The effect on the industry of Herd Law as compared with unorganized districts.

6. The cause of and remedy for:  
    swamp fever in horses  
    glanders in horses  
    navel ills in foals  
    tuberculosis in animals  
    abortion in animals

The above diseases affect the Live Stock interests to an alarming extent in the West.

Then we have the questions of interprovincial interest, such as the transportation problem, the chilled meat question as touched on by the resolution presented recently to the Government at Ottawa by the Grain Growers; also the brand question and the overlapping of Live Stock at the Provincial boundaries. Besides these there are many questions connected with Animal Husbandry in this province impossible to deal with in a short resume of this nature.

The Live Stock interests, at present, must represent an investment by the breeders of Saskatchewan, of

close to \$100,000,000.00. With a fair field, and all obstacles removed, this industry should develop to tremendous proportions in this Province.

In view, then, of the exceptional circumstances surrounding the live stock industry in Saskatchewan involving such questions as our geographical situation, climatic conditions, transportation difficulties, importance of the industry, opportunity for development, conservation of natural resources, health of animals, improving standard of breeds, educational features, organization, harmonizing all interests, besides innumerable other features, I am convinced that the best interests of the live stock industry would be served by the appointment of a Provincial Live Stock Commissioner for Saskatchewan, whose duty would be the shaping and putting into effect of a policy that will result in placing Saskatchewan where nature decreed she should stand--first in the realm of Animal Husbandry among the Provinces of the Dominion.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) ROBT. SINTON, President  
Provincial Live Stock  
and Winter Fair Boards

.....

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
SASKATCHEWAN

Regina, Jan. 6, 1910

Robt. Sinton, Esq.,  
Regina, Sask.

Dear Mr. Sinton:

I have your communication of January 5th setting out very comprehensively the reasons and considerations upon which the Provincial Live Stock Association and the Winter Fair Board, urge the provision and maintenance of a Live Stock Commissioner for the Province. I may say that the Government has already been giving serious consideration to this subject and I am very pleased indeed to receive the strong presentation of the case which your communication embodies. No final decision in the matter has yet been arrived at and I am not able to say that we will find it possible to deal definitely with the subject at the present session but I think that the probability is good for such an outcome. The strong case which you make for the action will undoubtedly have a bearing on the Government's final decision.

Yours very sincerely,  
(Signed) WALTER SCOTT.

Following this letter we were called into personal consultation with Premier Scott. The Live Stock Branch accordingly took shape with P.M. Bredt as first Live Stock Commissioner, followed by J. C. Smith, who was later killed in the great war.



As each importer's contribution of Clydesdales came forward from Scotland from year to year, the keenest kind of competition began to develop at all the leading shows in Canada and especially in the West, where dealers were new in the business. A reputation in the show yard meant something in capturing a favorable place in the western market.

At the moment we recall the purchase of Gartley Bonus in 1912, twice a champion of Great Britain. This horse won First and Championship in the three Western Provinces after coming to Canada. Then there was Fyvie Baron in 1913, three times Champion of Great Britain. This horse never reached the West, having been shown at the Canadian National, Toronto, and also at Chicago on his way from Scotland, he having won first and championship at both shows, was sold for \$6,500, at the last named show, to remain in the United States. Apart from these outstanding horses which were always high-priced, our show animals in the younger classes were often secured at the smaller shows in Scotland, first or second prize winners, bought at much less money, and carrying the prestige of the Scottish standard in the show ring, in addition to satisfying our own taste in choice. In any case we usually succeeded in standing well up in the classes in the Canadian show rings.

While making our annual visits to Scotland, we made two excursions to France with the object of having a look at the Percherons and French Coach horses. While there we bought a few Percherons the first year, and the second year we bought a few of each breed. We continued the importation of horses from Scotland until war was declared in 1914, after which we kept in touch with the industry by breeding a few and by giving special attention to the duties of President of the Live Stock Board, Winter Fair, and that of the Advisory Council to the Provincial College of Agriculture.

Our family visits to the old land while on our purchasing trips during the summer holiday season gave the children an exceptional opportunity of practical observation, to add to their school studies at home and this no doubt left an imprint not possible apart from travel.--the long rail and ocean journey the Art Galleries of Glasgow and London, the Botanical Gardens, the London Zoo. The great traffic avenues of London, the underground tubes, the ground-level system with its three-deck trams, the bus and taxi service, regulated to the minute by an incomparable police system.

London Tower, at the approach to old London Bridge where we viewed the Crown jewels under heavy glass, and many other treasures protected by an armed guard. We also visited Westminster Abbey and the British House of Commons, historic monuments recalling studies of English history depicting London life centuries ago.

Then there was Buckingham Palace the King's London residence and Kensington Gardens the birthplace of Queen Victoria, the Marble Arch and close by, Hyde Park, 388 acres, in the heart of London, the most fashionable promenade and lounge in the great city.

Our Edinburgh sight seeing included Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace, situated on a rocky promontory overlooking the city, full of interest to lovers of Scotch history; then there was Prince's Street, reported to be one of the most picturesque streets in the world. On this street we saw the house of John Knox the great Protestant reformer, who lived in the fifteenth century; also the great monument to Sir Walter Scott, situated at the beautiful Prince's St., sunken gardens; there was historic St. Giles Cathedral, besides many other points of deep interest which space will not permit reviewing.

Glasgow, Scotland's great maritime port of entry, the second city of the United Kingdom, with a population of one million people, stands a model of municipal enterprize and management; nevertheless here may be seen the greatest extremes in poverty and wealth anywhere in the British Isles, where self-degradation is seen at its lowest ebb, and Christianity is seen at its best. These were but a few of the points of observation covered during our visits to the land of our forbears.

There was, too, the memorable visit also of keen interest to the children, at the birthplace of their grandparents, prompted by the expressed desire of my father, who would have us see his native home and kin; on his side of the house, in one of the border counties, Roxburghshire; while on their mother's side, they found great pleasure in visiting her people in the Highlands and as far north as Inverness.

Incident: In connection with our family visit to my father's birthplace, Ancrum Village, Roxburghshire: Leaving Glasgow by rail we reached Melrose at noon; in the afternoon we visited Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's estate, on the River Tweed.

The following day we reached Ancrum by horse carriage fifteen miles distant at noon, a straggling village of 300 people situated near the junction of the A6 with the Teviot River, which in turn join the Yarrow and the Tweed farther on; a quaint old fashioned village surrounded by a beautiful border country in its midsummer beauty.

The village supported a Public House but no Hotel. Our problem then was to find a place to stay during our visit. Leaving the family in the sitting room of the Public House we decided to make a house to house canvass for accommodation.

Seeing a man sitting on the bank by the side of the street we advised him of our problem, also telling him that our forefathers originally lived in this village. Speaking in the Scottish dialect so familiar to us he said, "You are from America." We replied "Yes, from Canada." "Man," he said "I have a brother in Canada, possibly you may have met him." We replied that Canada was an extensive country and asked him where his brother lived. He replied, "In a place called Regina." On enquiring what his name might be, we were quite thrilled with his reply "His name is James Blythe." We told him that we knew his brother. He then invited us to his house and taking the family album from the mantel shelf he asked us to kindly find his brother's picture; this we did without difficulty. Having then given him our surname which was a familiar one in that section he introduced us to his sisters, two maiden ladies who invited our family to afternoon tea. They also found us a place to stay, and otherwise helped to make our visit a real pleasure. They were able to relate many interesting incidents regarding the Sintons who lived in the district, and directed us where to find them.

In regard to ancestry: When dear wife feels a little gay about her Highland lineage, and refers to her mother's family, that of Campbell, being related to the late Duke of Argyle, the Chief of the Campbell Clan, who married Queen Victoria's daughter, the late Princess Louise, the distinguished couple later serving as Governor General, and Her Excellency, to the Dominion of Canada, we are then compelled to point to our Lowland superiority complex in the fact that our mother was an Elliott said to have been related to the Earl of Minto whose surname was Elliott and who also served later as Governor General of Canada for a term besides being a noted soldier in his time. The Elliott war cry "Wha daur meddle wi me?" was a noted war slogan during the wars of the borders, said to have originated with wee Jack Elliott, a fiery scion of the name during that turbulent period.

Another characteristic we were obliged to explain was the Lowlander's sense of justice in these troublous border days; for example, "Jethart justice" (namely, hang a man and try him afterwards) "Jethart" being a corruption of Jedburgh a border town where the practice originated, our explanation being that it may have been a practice meant as a warning to invaders from across the border to the south.

Then there were cattle-lifting and sheep-stealing raids by certain clans of the Rob Roy McGregor type, directed against Lowland live stock thrift, -- reprehensible enough at the time, but referred to today by descendants in jocular terms. A case in point: -- some years ago the late governor of Manitoba, J.D. McGregor, was honored by his home city of Brandon to a dinner, complimentary to his having won the championship for an Aberdeen Angus animal, of exceptional merit, at the World's Fair, Chicago. The city of Brandon having bought the fatted calf it was killed and served at the banquet, the writer being one of 500 guests in attendance. In proposing the toast to the guest of the evening, his honor, then Lieutenant Governor Cameron of Manitoba, humorously remarked that though Scottish history reported the McGregor Clan as "cattle lifters" at one time, he hoped the present notable herd of the Canadian representative of the family was not the progeny of cattle obtained clandestinely, by his Rob Roy ancestors.

In his reply to the toast Mr. McGregor reminded Lieut. Governor Cameron that Scottish tradition reported the Camerons as notorious sheep-stealers some of whom suffered "jethart justice" -- hung first and tried afterwards.

So, in Canada, we jolly each other in regard to our racial characteristics and this spirit of banter really tends to foster Canadian patriotism among our mixed population.

During the constructive period immediately prior to the war, many schemes were submitted at the Horse Breeders' meetings for the improvement of the industry. All the plans submitted depended basically upon a money grant from the Government to put them into effect; however, the declaration of war put a damper on all plans for the time being.

Following the war, interest was revived and three of the above-mentioned schemes were submitted to the Provincial Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Dunning gave his approval to the Sinton Plan and promised \$25,000.00 towards its consummation, the plan being to place an imported male specimen of the Clydesdale breed, as a standard of excellence at the Provincial College of Agriculture, both as an object lesson to the student body, and to set a standard to all and sundry not familiar with Clydesdale characteristics, and secondly to raise the standard of the industry by mating this horse only to the best pure-bred females in the Province.

In the Autumn of 1920 the following three men were named by the Government to go to Scotland and make the selection,—Dean Rutherford representing the Collège, William Gibson, Superintendent of the Indian Head Experimental Farm, representing the Provincial Horse Breeders, and Robert Sinton representing the Government. Being unable to secure a mature animal of the best type, they being sublet under the hiring system for the following year, the delegation purchased two younger animals for the money intended to be paid for a mature and tried horse. These two young horses had won high honors, each in his own class, one at The Highland, Scotland, the other at The Royal, England. Before shipping, the horses were insured at \$9,500.00 each, reaching Saskatoon in

about 16 days, having experienced the roughest voyage to Montreal in our whole experience on the water. Jimmie Slessor who had been the victim of a submarine attack, who had spent thirty-six hours on a life buoy before being rescued, and who had proven immune from seasickness was the attendant during the voyage and rail journey, while we were in charge, the Dean and Gibson coming later.

Unfortunately the scheme did not work out as expected. First Craigie Enchanter died within a month of his arrival, and a year later his stable mate, Bonnie Fyvie developed a disability in his movement, and in the meantime a pair of beautiful fillies by the latter horse died of swamp fever. However, there was one redeeming feature in the misfortune, the insurance money \$9,500.00 secured on the death of Craigie Enchanter, was reinvested in a stud of choice imported Clydesdales, mostly females established by Mr. Cluet of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. a millionaire who, owing to ill health, was obliged to disperse his stud. With this lot added to the nucleus already established at the college, they were then in possession of possibly the best lot of female Clydesdales on the continent, as a result of the Sinton Scheme. What the college really lacked at this point was an impressive Sire such as recommended in our original plan.

Being still absorbed with the idea of revitalizing the Clydesdale section of the Provincial horse industry at its most sensitive point, while making our contribution to the industry in our time, we felt we now had a second opportunity to put our scheme on a sound basis. We then decided to try another plan as presented in the following letter:

Regina, Oct. 7, 1924.

James Kilpatrick, Esq.,  
Kilmarnock, Scotland.

Dear Sir: No doubt you have heard from time to time (I am sure with much regret) of the unavoidable misfortune that have followed the Clydesdale colts purchased from you and Mr. John Cocker in 1920 for the college of Agriculture, Saskatchewan, Canada, first in the death of Craigie Enchanter, followed later by the development of a peculiar hitch or lift in the movement of one hind leg in the case of Bonnie Fyvie, with the result that he is now unable to qualify under the Horse Breeders' Act of Saskatchewan for the purpose for which he was originally purchased, namely a standard of excellence for the Clydesdale breed, at the College of Agriculture and at the same time improve the standard of the breed by mating him each year with a select number of the top mares of the Province. Apart from the defect mentioned, Bonnie Fyvie is evidently a superb sire, as the first-fruits of his matings when a two-year-old, with two of the college mares, resulted in two fillies named by the Dean, Bonnie Jean and Bonnie Lassie. As yearlings these fillies won Championships at the Canadian National, Toronto, and at the Chicago International in 1924. These beautiful fillies, the pride of the Dean and the College Staff, I regret to say are now dead, having contracted swamp fever with fatal effects during the time of the Saskatoon Fair.

I may say that in view of the comparatively large amount of public money spent in this enterprise and the unfortunate results so far experienced, Dean Rutherford as purchaser, the Provincial Department of Agriculture who provided the money, and myself as originator of the scheme, have been the subject of severe criticism from some of the leading horse breeders and others in authority in the Province.



Personally I am still convinced, and I know that the Provincial Department of Agriculture and the College authorities are also convinced, that the scheme is in the best interests of the Clydesdale industry in this Province, provided the College had the proper stamp of stallion to put the plan into effect.

In view of all the circumstances above set out, and without casting the slightest reflection on yourself or Mr. Cocker in the sale of these horses, as I know you both acted the part of gentlemen in this matter, I have been wondering whether or not you and Mr. Cocker would consider contributing a two year old colt to the College, say a colt by Craigie Litigant. I feel that it would be a magnanimous act on the part of two of the principals to this enterprise and at the same time a contribution to Clydesdale development in Canada, that would perpetuate your names in Clydesdale history and re-affirm afresh to this young province, with its great breeding possibilities, the fact that Scotland stands supreme, as the nursery for the Clydesdale breed of draft horses.

Should you consider this suggestion favorably I would undertake to have a man sent over to Scotland to take charge of the colt in transit, would also take care of freight and insurance charges. I would also suggest keeping the colt at Regina under the care of the Department of Agriculture (Swamp Fever being almost unknown here) until the trouble at Saskatoon has passed over.

I am taking the initiative in this matter without the authority of the College or the Department of Agriculture. However, I know that a gift of this nature, would be very highly appreciated in this Province, and would receive very special notice by the Agricultural press of the Province and Canada as a whole.

Yours very truly,  
(Signed) ROBERT SINTON

On Nov. 6th I received the following reply:

Kilmarnock, Scotland,

To Robert Sinton, Regina, Sask.

Cocker and I agree to present 1923 brother of Enchanter. Ask Dean send name for colt. Send man. Writing.

Kilpatrick.

I also wrote the Anchor-Donaldson shipping Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company requesting free transportation for the colt, and believe it or not the request was graciously granted, and in addition, free transportation both ways to Allan Kilpatrick in charge of the horse.

In due time this scion of the Clydesdale breed arrived in charge of Mr. Kilpatrick's son, Allan, safe and sound, and when age permitted, took his place at the head of the college stud. This princely gift was fittingly acknowledged by the Minister of Agriculture on the floor of the House, which was in session at that time, also by letter to the donors including the Provincial University, and by myself, on behalf of the horse-breeders. Young Kilpatrick also was banqueted both at Regina and Saskatoon, while the photos of the donors, and an account of the presentation appeared in all the leading agricultural papers in Canada.

Apart from our official efforts in the promotion of animal husbandry in its infancy in the West, our contribution in pure bred animals, imported and home-bred, probably numbered 450 head in Herefords and 300 head in Clydesdales, representing a financial

outlay of about a quarter of a million dollars. These animals were distributed throughout the three prairie provinces, where we trust the progeny is telling the story of improvement in the industry today.

Saskatoon, April 16, 1924.

Mr. Robert Sinton,  
Regina, Sask.

Dear Mr. Sinton:

I have pleasure in advising you on behalf of this Agricultural Societies' Association that the delegates to the Agricultural Societies convention last January went on record as being very grateful to you for your efforts which resulted in the presentation to the Province of Saskatchewan of the Clydesdale Stallion, Craigie Fyvie.

Yours very truly,  
(Signed) JOHN G. RAYNER, Secretary  
Agricultural Societies'  
(Association.)

Regina, March 8, 1925.

Dear Mr. Sinton:

The following resolution was passed with applause at the recent general meeting of the Association held in the City of Regina:

THAT THIS ASSOCIATION pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Robert Sinton of Regina, who personally was to a very large extent responsible for the donation of this Clydesdale colt Craigie Fyvie to Saskatchewan, and that Mr. Sinton's constant thoughtfulness in regard to the movement of the Clydesdale breed in particular, and of heavy draft horses in general in this Province, be very highly commended.

(letter continued)

I take great pleasure therefore in extending to you the hearty thanks and appreciation of the Horse Breeders and the Clydesdale Breeders of the Province for your valuable work. Work such as you have done for Agriculture, for horse breeding and for Clydesdale breeding in particular will be bearing fruit for many many years to come.

Robert Sinton, Esq.,  
1810 Albert St.,  
Regina, Sask.

Cordially yours,  
(Signed) J. G. ROBERTSON, Sec.  
Saskatchewan Horse  
Breeders' Association.

In 1927 we were presented with the following framed certificate by the Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies' Association.

.....  
.....  
.....  
..... S A S K A T C H E W A N .....  
..... AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION .....  
.....  
..... By unanimous vote of the members .....  
..... assembled in convention in 1927 .....  
.....  
.....  
"" H O N O R A R Y L I F E M E M B E R S H I P ""  
""  
""  
""  
"" awarded to .....  
""  
"" ROBERT SINTON .....  
""  
"" In recognition of outstanding service to the .....  
"" Agricultural Societies of Saskatchewan. .....  
""  
"" I.P.ROBINSON ..... JOHN G. RAYNER .....  
"" President ..... Sec.-Treas. ....

In 1928 we were presented with an illuminated and framed address by the Provincial Live Stock Board signed by the President of the Board and the Presidents of the seven Provincial Breed Associations in the following terms:

To Robert Sinton:

When outstanding service has been rendered by anyone in raising the standard of the live stock in this Province we feel that it is the pleasant duty and privilege of the Saskatchewan Live Stock Board to place on record the acknowledgement and appreciation of such service. The work of no one in this regard is more worthy of appreciation than that which you have accomplished.

You settled at the Pile O'Bones in those early days when men with a pride in farm animals were urgently needed. The love of animals which you acquired early in life survived the hard struggle which has been the lot of every pioneer in a new country, and if we have reason to boast of the achievements of this Province in competition with the breeders of other Provinces and States a large measure of credit is due to men like yourself, who not only helped to lay the foundation of our live stock industry but by example and advice encourage others to join the ranks and carry on the good work.

The various Breed Associations, as long as they endure, will always be a reminder to the people of Saskatchewan of the clear vision which you and others had when you organized the Live Stock Breed Association. You were its first President and it must be a source of pride and satisfaction to you, under your efficient leadership, the development was such that in 1909 a re-organization was necessary and it was divided into four Breed Associations.

Again when the Winter Fair was organized your counsel was sought and as the first President you wisely guided its destinies until it was affiliated with the Regina Fair Association. Your assistance to the Agricultural College has been invaluable. In short you have been identified with every activity that aimed at the improvement of farm animals, and your name stands out pre-eminent in the history of the development of better live-stock in this province.

We would ask you to accept this address as a sincere tribute of our esteem for you, and our appreciation of your work since the early pioneer days. You not only allured to brighter worlds but led the way, and we trust that for many many years to come, we may continue to turn to our dear friend, Robert Sinton, for help and advice.

Signed on behalf of The Saskatchewan Live Stock Organizations:--

C. M. Learmonth, Pres.  
Sask. Live Stock Board

Olaf Olafson, Pres.,  
Sask. Stock Growers Ass'n.

Peter A. Taylor, Pres.,  
Sask. Horse Breeders' Ass'n.

Phillip Leech, Pres.,  
Sask. Swine Breeders' Ass'n.

C. W. Thurston, Pres.,  
Sask. Cattle Breeders Ass'n.

W. H. Boyle, Pres.,  
Sask. Prov. Poultry Ass'n.

I. J. Rushton, Pres.,  
Sask. Sheep Breeders' Ass'n.

J. G. Robertson, Sec.,  
Sask. Live Stock Ass'n.

Dated January 18, 1928.  
at the City of Regina, Saskatchewan.

The declaration of War in 1914 brought to a standstill all importations of Clydesdales and all breeds of animals from the old land. With us, this brought up the question of a clean-up of our remaining stock, and the collection of all outstanding accounts amounting at that time from \$75,000.00 to \$100,000.00,--fortunately all produce was bringing good prices, and although it required time, we finally succeeded in clearing up pretty well, without having recourse to legal compulsion.

Our experience with the Live Stock industry and its associations during the first half century of its formation in the West, gave us opportunities of observation through travel, through business association with all aspects of the industry, through acting as first president of Saskatchewan Breed Associations and Winter Fair Board, through testing our product in meats on the tables of the consumer in the old land in comparison with the home finished product, through observation of their breeding principles, and conduct of their shows, in the pure bred nurseries of the world, but more particularly through meeting men such as Wm. Duthie of Shorthorn fame, Montgomery Brothers, James Kilpatrick, John Cocker, John Pollock, David Riddle and a host of others not only in Great Britain but also in the United States and Canada, and today January 1st, 1935, as Honorary President of the Saskatchewan Provincial Live Stock Board, and Director on the Regina Exhibition Board, approaching 81 years, we attend all meetings and shows under their auspices, and enjoy meeting friends with a zest equalled by few at our time of life.

Reverting to activities apart from Live Stock:

Following the sale of our property at the Legislative building site in 1905, and acting in terms of the old adage that fortune knocks at a man's door once during his life time, we refrained for a time from

making reinvestments in real estate. The wave of development that had evidently taken possession of the people at that time, appeared to a few of the saner heads to be wildly speculative in its nature when compared with the former standard development in other parts of Canada and the older states of the American Union. Conservative opinion felt that the West was surely riding to a fall; on the other hand possibly ninety per cent. of the people felt that this was "The Last West," and nothing could hold her back, and suiting the action to the word, they fell in line with the spirit of the times. The movement could not be characterized as wholly economic in its nature, but rather a Land and Realty movement distinctive to the Prairie Provinces of Western Canada. Those speculative movements took place two or three times at intervals during the early history of the West, and have since been referred to as "boom periods." Those periods of optimism alternated with periods of saner development, sometimes referred to in the lower economic dips, as "dull times." However, not until the great war and since have these periods of depression taken on a world-wide aspect such as we are suffering from today. Nevertheless we are still unable to say that these hopeful periods of development, followed by periods of consolidation, were not what might be expected in opening up a new country with such vast possibilities still to be developed.

In 1907, being on the crest of one of the hopeful periods above-mentioned, evidently our resolution to stay out of real estate was short-lived. The spirit of the times appeared to be infectious. As a result we were persuaded to purchase Sections 4 and 5, 17-19-W2nd situated a little more than a mile from the Parliament Building grounds, consideration being \$25.00 per acre for Section 4, and \$41.00 per acre for Section 5. The lands looked well worth the money at



the time as an investment, being within a mile of the city limits.

The following winter, Jan. 1908, when about to leave for the National Live Stock Convention, Ottawa, on the invitation of Dr. Rutherford, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner (before referred to) we were approached by a man who claimed to be a citizen of Wales, looking for sub division property to purchase. After some preliminary banter re Sections 4 and 5 above-named, he asked if we would consider \$350.00 per acre for Section 4, and \$500.00 per acre for Section 5. Being ready to step on the train, and not being particularly impressed with his manner, we asked him if he would be in Regina on our return in about ten days. He replied that he might be. On relating the incident to Senator Ross of Moose Jaw, a friend of many years standing, he pressed me to get off the train at the first stop and go back and close the deal. He also informed me that he had just sold a block of subdivision property in Moose Jaw for sufficient money to see him through the rest of his days. On our return from the East our Welsh friend had purchased property situated somewhat closer to the city. It goes without saying that many of these suburban deals lost heavily for either buyer or seller as the lands are now either under cultivation or are used as pasturage by dairymen clinging close to the city with their herds. Nevertheless from 1905 when the two Prairie Provinces were formed, to 1912-13, real estate and land values continued to advance. No doubt wheat production, with Regina holding the key to the future granary of the Empire, was the answer at that time. About the year 1908-9 the Wascana Country Club was established, immediately north of Section 4, consisting of 100 acres for which the club paid \$100.00 per acre. A project was then undertaken by the club and a number of land owners between that point and the city, to


connect the Club property, with the city street railway system, the object of property owners along the way being to convert their lands into market gardens or suburban subdivisions. The Street Railway was built all right, the property owners making the greatest contribution, our assessment being \$17,500.00 paid as the work proceeded, the railway was then turned over to the city with a proviso that the city should operate the line to the convenience of the Club. Unfortunately the plan did not work out as forecast, the auto and truck being introduced into the West about that time undermining the proposition as a passenger and suburban project. Years afterwards, the material was salvaged and used in extending the city system within the boundaries of the city. During the war years when the government was making an appeal for greater production, we then sold Sec. 5 realizing \$90.00 per acre, since when we have continued to operate Sec. 4 as our home farm.

On July 1st, 1912, Regina and district experienced the terrific cyclone of that date, leaving a swath of house wreckage in its wake, centering on Smith Street to a width of two to three blocks from south to north in the city. The cyclone left a number of dead and many injured in its path. Being on the way to Scotland with our family, we received the first intimation of the cyclone, by Marconigram, while going around Cape Race, on the southern coast of Newfoundland, having to await a full account of the devastation resulting, through press report and letter, after reaching Scotland. Fortunately our care at home, and our property with the exception of a small section of one roof, escaped injury.

During our term of office in the Council from 1903 to 1912 we were favored by serving Regina in a period of great development in her history. Regina

having grown during the decade from a town of 3,000 population, to a city of 30,000 while building records increased by \$21,000,000.00 whereas the installation of public utilities necessary to a growing city, such as water and sewer, light and power, street railway and city pavements, probably accounted for an equal expenditure. Being chairman of works in 1905-6 we had the honor of initiating the first paving scheme in the city. Also in 1909-10 as chairman of works, we introduced and succeeded in having the trunk sewer scheme started, each utility being completed and put into service, consistent with the requirements of the City at that time. About the year 1912 a movement was inaugurated by Knox Church for the erection of a Boys' Presbyterian College at Regina. The contributions in money and lands pledged by members of Knox, headed by Premier Walter Scott amounted to over a Half Million Dollars, our contribution being the North West Quarter of Section 5, or its equivalent in money. The property on which the College was to be erected lay immediately south of Reservoir and east of Broad Street. However, the break in real estate values which occurred in 1913 delayed action and the declaration of war in 1914 killed the project entirely. I may say to the credit of the Methodist Church that their college, started about that date or shortly before, was carried through to completion, and is one of our leading institutions today; true, many members of Knox Church made generous contributions, ours being \$1,000.00.

In 1913 a number of real estate men in Regina succeeded in interesting a firm of realty brokers of Glasgow, Scotland, in an option to be secured from us for the sale of all our property in real estate and farm lands held in the Regina district. The proposed transaction resulted in an inspection by the Glasgow firm's agent, as to our bona fides, the location and supposed value of all properties listed, and as to the outlook for continued development of the City, and



Western Canada as a whole, his instructions being to avoid personal consultation with us in the matter. Evidently his report must have been favorable on his return, as his firm cabled us to come to Glasgow and close the deal, consideration being One and One-Quarter Million Dollars, the property carrying encumbrances up to a quarter of a Million Dollars. In response to the cablegram we started to the old country at once, accompanied by our solicitor, Jack Martin. On reaching Glasgow and coming in contact with the principal in the proposed deal, a Mr. Forbes, an elderly man who did not impress us very hopefully to begin with as we each laid our cards on the table. In the first place he would not show us the report of his inspector, although we had paid the cost of his trip as a matter of good faith on our part, except to say that the report occupied 24 pages of foolscap; nor would he give us the names of his associates with one exception, a lawyer. He also wished us to take \$175,000.00 of shares in his Company, and give him a transfer of all our property, in order to show his proposed company his bona fide in the transaction; the transfer to be returned to us, in the event of the deal failing to go through. Being dissatisfied with the proposition, after fully considering the matter and discussing it with Jack, we decided to lay the whole proposition before one of the best legal firms in Glasgow. In their reply, after looking carefully into the transaction, including Mr. Forbes' standing, they concluded by using the term "madness," as their final judgment.

We therefore disassociated ourselves from Mr. Forbes entirely and took the opportunity to purchase a consignment of Clydesdales from Montgomery Brothers. Being early in the season we did not take delivery until fall when we sent Wm. Milne over to take charge on the way home.

In 1913 the City of Regina had begun to assume metropolitan proportions, and Albert Street, intersecting the city as it does on the boundary line between ranges 19 and 20, was situated to become one of the principal thoroughfares of the city, extending beyond the limits north and south, clear across the Province. The construction of the Albert Street subway and improvements at the reservoir bridge gave the street a far-reaching approach, with a view to protection of both city and country traffic converging on this street, Albert being 100 foot in width. Feeling at the time that Albert Street was not receiving the support it should as a business street, we decided to lead the way by the erection of a business block immediately south of our home, on lots 15-16-17 Block 312, the building having frontage of 75 feet on Albert St., with a depth of 80 feet, height being an eight foot basement and four stories up. The contract price being \$75,000.00 the lots being valued at that time at about \$15,000.00 boom prices, an architect being in charge of construction. The block in completed form was included in our Scottish sale list, while the loan on construction \$60,000.00 was also included in the encumbrance above-mentioned. On our return from Scotland in July 1913 we found the block well advanced in construction, and before completion we succeeded in getting it pretty well leased. We also found that the economic barometer was falling. Money was tightening up and many buildings throughout the West then under construction were left unfinished, including the Grand Trunk Pacific Hotel at the corner of College and Albert St., Regina.

We now began to realize that we had permitted the speculative spirit of the times to override our saner judgment in regard to our investments, as inflated values began to break and decline, pulling down our financial standing. Our obligations continued to grow through taxation and interest charges. It began to

look as though we were up against a serious problem to balance our budget annually; however, we were not alone--this condition was characteristic of the times and the country as a whole with greater emphasis on the urban centers.

On top of this economic and speculative break, war was declared on August 14, 1914. For the moment, Canada was staggered, with one thought emerging--that of going to the assistance of the Mother Country.

As we scanned the bulletin boards and press, while the days dragged along, we conferred with each other as to its effect on the financial structure, both in Canada and abroad. We gradually became conscious that a number of people were quietly trying to put together a cash reserve, with a preference for gold, in case of a financial emergency. On general principles we had been doing this very thing; since we received the first shock, using our own safe as our deposit box. Within thirty days we had put together \$35,000, partly in gold. This we deposited with a trust company in the city for a time in a special box in their vault. As the financial situation again became normal, we gradually put this money once more into circulation.

During the war period from 1914 to 1919, as the nations continued to be drawn into the maelstrom, economic control took on a world-wide aspect never before experienced. The war movement, both in a physical and economic sense, controlled the situation. Canada, as an ally of Great Britain, responded to the limit of her resources in men, money, food supplies, and munitions, and as she became depleted of her manpower and the call went out for greater production, she responded by replacing her man-power by machinery, Western Canada then proving that she was indeed the granary of the Empire.

In the winter of 1916 our son, William R., then eighteen years, at that time a student at the Central Collegiate, decided, along with a majority of his class, including their teacher now the Hon. Robt. Weir, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, to join the 195th Battalion then in course of formation in Regina. The 195th went overseas in Oct. 1916, Wm. R. doing duty in the Forestry Branch of the Service, and remaining at the front until the close of hostilities. He returned home in July 1919 safe and sound. Needless to say after Wm. R. joined the forces in France the war presented a very different aspect to those of us at home. Little did I think when I had Will with me on a visit to France in 1911 that he would be back in France in 1917-18 as a soldier in the greatest war in history. On his return in 1919 Will made the remark, "Well this is one place where I know I am welcome,--home," -- an expression treasured by his mother and myself ever since.

After the first shock of the war, property values readjusted themselves on a different basis. Speculative values were forgotten, and revenue-bearing properties became standardized on a revenue-earning basis, whereas nonrevenue-producing properties, were practically valueless for the time being at least. Holding clear title as we did at that time to a list of property in the latter class, and as taxes were accumulating, we let properties which had cost us \$175,000, revert to the City for taxes; whereas revenue-bearing property, much of which was heavily entailed, required to be protected on account of our personal covenant; otherwise we would have had to make an assignment. At this time we were also indebted to the Royal Bank to the extent of \$25,000. Having received an order to reduce our account at the Bank by \$10,000.00 we fortunately were able to meet this demand as revenues were coming in fairly free. The

Bank Manager then advised us that our bank account was in satisfactory form. In a few weeks we were again requested to still further reduce our account. This being a new experience, to us, in banking, we then had an interview with the manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, who gave us his cheque for \$15,000, taking our note at three months, with the suggestion to clean up at the Royal Bank and deposit our securities at the Bank of Nova Scotia for safe keeping. This we did to the great surprise of the Royal Bank management. At the end of three months revenues had come in, sufficient to meet our obligation at the Bank of Nova Scotia. We then made a dead set, in an endeavor to still further reduce our obligations. As previously mentioned we had already sold Section 5 at a valuation of \$57,000.00. In 1920 we sold the Albert Street Block at \$85,000.00; our business property on the same street at \$32,000.00, also 60 lots to the Grand Trunk Pacific for \$10,000. besides smaller sales and collections amounting to \$41,000. approximating a total in sales and collections of \$225,000.00. These sales were mostly made through Real Estate firms in the city. This left us with the home property on Albert Street, four lots and house, and an equal sized property and two houses on Scarth Street, in addition to three lots on Angus Street. These properties at a moderate valuation were worth at that time \$50,000. We also had Sec. 4 and equipment which we valued at \$50,000, and three or four quarter-sections in the vicinity possibly worth \$10,000.00, on all of which, city and country, we still owed \$17,000.00 including taxes aggregating \$1400.00 a year. Our revenue in rents from the Scarth Street property and the farm ran anywhere from \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 per annum during the war years or while wheat prices remained strong. The above-named activities carried us forward to 1921, during which season we built three cottages on the lots on Angus St., before mentioned, at a cost of



about \$4,000.00 each, including the lots. In addition to the home farm at that time we were working 240 acres on Section 8-17-19 for the Government, now, 1935, used as a subexperimental station.

In 1920, while plowing on the above land William Milne, our farm foreman, had three horses out of five killed during a thunder storm. He himself and two horses escaped. The autumn months of 1920 and 1921 proved to be very wet; in 1920, October being the wet month, and in 1921 in September we had seven inches of rain. Much of the grain being unthreshed, grades in some cases were reduced two or three points. We recall resetting the wheat stacks for days during the month, in order if possible to prevent sprouting. Will and myself assisting each day from town, were obliged to leave our car at the Parliament buildings owing to impassable roads, walk two miles to work in the morning, and return in the evening. The following spring, 1922, was wet, seeding being delayed until the latter part of May, and the first days of June, and yet we had a splendid crop, ripened in about ninety days, practically without frost.

Commencing about 1917 we planted a number of Russian poplar trees on Section 4, and continuing each year we planted a few until we had a plantation of 375 trees, occupying about one acre and a half in the form of a square, the plantation forming a wind-break to the farm steading.

From 1923 to 1929 our activities were mostly confined to the farm, on routine duty in the summer season, while we spent the winter months quietly at home. Our family had grown up, Christine, having graduated in 1920 with distinction, taught school for six years and was married in 1926 to Murray Thomson of Pense, Sask., while Bessie graduated in 1928, after

which she taught school and held a position in the Civil Service until 1929 when she married Jack Kenneth Sexton of Swift Current. Wm. R. having spent two terms at the University, then secured a position with the Saskatchewan Cooperative Creamery, married in 1927 to Kathleen Foster of Regina, and is now, 1935, manager of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creamery at North Battleford.

During the decade of the 20's much of Southern Saskatchewan, at one time considered a doubtful farming prospect, had become occupied, and served by railway facilities. Immigration was now pouring into the north country, many of the new-comers being returned soldiers. As production developed, weather effects, north, south and center, in alternate belts seldom uniform in crop returns, became more and more the absorbing question in each of those divisions. The north usually led in moisture and yield per acre of product, although subject to greater hazards, in summer frosts and autumn rains during the threshing season; whereas the South lends itself to the use of power machinery, being unobstructed by brush or excessive moisture. However, the drier climate in the South predisposes to lesser yields in wheat per acre, although of superior baking quality, having a higher percentage in protein content. The great middle section, more particularly in the heavy and moderately heavy land areas, may very well be considered the backbone of Saskatchewan being not quite so subject to weather hazards as the North and South areas.

Evidently war prices for wheat and the appeal for greater production was the means of starting a world-wide movement in wheat production, which continued after the war, without a thought of overproduction. 1928 proved to be Western Canada's maximum crop year, her contribution being something over five

hundred million bushels; and although production following 1928 began to decline in Canada as she entered the present cycle of dry seasons, other exporting countries continued to increase their output. In consequence, markets being unable to absorb the quantities of wheat offered, prices broke, the circulation of capital became restricted, and as a result, industry and labor suffered, while the law of supply and demand, and the world's economic structure, became unbalanced. Unfortunately this economic backset occurred while humanity was still salvaging the wreckage caused by the great war, and before normal conditions could become fully restored, thereby rendering commitments undertaken during more hopeful conditions, doubly and trebly burdensome to carry or liquidate.

Our own harvest in 1928 gave a satisfactory yield,—about 35 bushels to the acre, the Marquis being slightly frosted, while the Huron variety escaped injury, being earlier to ripen. In 1929 we decided to return control of part of Sec. 8, to the Government and confine our activities to Sec. 4, the home farm. Having had such good success with the Huron variety of wheat in '28, we seeded that variety entirely in '29; however, this proved to be a mistake, '29 being a dry season, Huron did not stand up like Marquis.

Unaware of impending stagnation to follow, evidently the great crop of '28, inspired Regina citizens with fresh ambitions for the future. Regina's building record for 1929 was the greatest in her history, investments running well over Ten Million Dollars with apartment blocks leading, as prospects. A considerable movement in property also transpired during the building season, our home and three lots on Albert Street being among the properties

sold. The price realized, \$25,000.00 cash, was considered a fortunate sale, as values a year later had declined at least 50% and properties since that time have become practically unsaleable. The lot next the lane, and no doubt the most valuable, we had previously given to the city on condition that they would widen the lane out by 25 feet, thus extending 11th Avenue west to Angus St. This apparent sacrifice at the time no doubt assisted to sell the property as above stated.

Being then without a home, we occupied our spare time in scouring the city for a prospective purchase, and finally located an eight-roomed house at 2064 Princess St., newly completed, which we bought, consideration being \$6,500.00,-- cash payment \$3,000.00 and terms on the balance. This latter transaction increased our mortgage indebtedness to \$20,500.00 which has since been reduced by \$600.00. We then had revenue in reserve which practically balanced our obligations; then we proceeded to carry on with the hope of balancing our budget until we would be able to sell our Scarth St. property, to square ourselves with the world. The cost of the above-named property was \$20,000.00. Our best bid, in 1929 was \$15,000.00 which we turned down, unfortunately, values since having continued downward. The season of 1929, hopeful at first, later proved to be a lean crop year, compared to 1928, although in the aggregate Saskatchewan had always to be reckoned with as the big wheat-producing Province in the Canadian West,--wheat being the great economic regulator.

Regina building record, always subject to the economic barometer, gradually petered out following the 1929 reaction. As a matter of fact we were unconsciously entering a period of depression never before experienced in Canadian or in World history for that matter.

During the winter of 1929 along with Mrs. Sinton we visited Vancouver and Victoria, B. C., remaining three months between the two cities, this being our first real holiday to a milder climate, with the exception of our business visits to the old land, during three of which we took the family along. The winter season at the coast in 1929, however, proved to be quite cold, ice on small lakes adjacent to Victoria being ten inches in thickness. Many autos might be seen on Egg Lake close by, any afternoon during the cold snap, whereas visitors from the prairies were obliged to wear their overcoats during church services, many of which had to be cut short while the cold spell lasted.

In March 1930 we leased the home farm to Beverly Hogg on a five year term on the usual basis 1/3 to owner, and 2/3 to tenant, each to pay half the taxes.

We then called a sale and sold out our entire equipment, horses, implements, feed, seed and household effects. The tenant then took possession, seeding being completed in good form, when the winds began to blow, cutting almost the entire young crop off two or three times, as the plants appeared above ground, necessitating the reseeded of two hundred acres of the crop sown. The season being again dry, the crop turned out light although a beautiful sample. This wheat crop we held over until 1932 when we sold it for seed, 1931 being what is known as the black year, all crop being blown out including all reseeded crop, southern Saskatchewan having the appearance of a sterile desert. However, part of the middle and northern part of the province had a crop which eased the situation considerably. Unfortunately we had our farm house burned down in '31, but as it was insured we had a new cottage up in six weeks at a cost of \$750.00, over the insurance. 1932 proved to be another light crop year, --15 bushels of wheat per acre, lack of sufficient moisture being the cause, though we evidently had enough moisture to prevent serious blowing until the early growth protected

the soil from drifting; then the reserve moisture, along with a meager shower or two, told the tale of the harvest. The crop of 1933 was a slight improvement over '32. Yields up to 20 bushels per acre were common in the Regina area. Strange to say the stubble crop out-yielded summerfallow, in many cases, in '33. No doubt retention of the former winter's snow accounted for greater moisture and increased yield in that year. South western Saskatchewan, however, still remained a blank as to a harvest in 1933.

The great Grain Show and Conference held in Regina in 1933 had its inception in a very simple way, four years previous, in 1929. The Agricultural Committee of the Regina Exhibition Board, of which we were a member, were discussing the prize list for the summer exhibition, and in view of Saskatchewan winning at the World's Grain Show at Chicago, year after year, we happened to make the remark,--why should our wheat growers have to go to Chicago to earn the title of "World's Wheat King" why not make that honor possible right here where the best wheat in the world is grown,--the doorway to the granary of the Empire,--Regina! Following the greatest crop in history, that of 1928, the idea caught like wild fire. When the Committee's Report was presented to the full Board, the date was fixed for 1933 the Provincial and Dominion Governments falling in line. As the years drew on, though faced with the most unprecedented depression ever known, Regina and Canada kept faith with the World, and a most creditable building, Grain Show, and Conference resulted in 1933.

Following a winter of light snowfall, 1934, the Regina district yielded harvest returns of about 18 bushels per acre on summerfallow, whereas stubble as a rule was a complete blank. Insufficient moisture again, accompanied by a plague of grasshoppers, accounted for the partial failure in the Regina area, whereas fully one-half of the Province (the south-western section) was again a total failure.

Our latest interesting adventure was undertaken in September 1934. Accompanied by Mrs. Sinton we made an auto trip of 1611 miles going by way of North Battleford to visit our son, Wm. Robt., wife and family; then by way of Edmonton and Calgary to Seebe, Alta., to visit our son-in-law Jack Sexton, daughter Bessie and baby. The trip occupied 15 days on 7 of which we encountered snow. During the last 4 days of our journey, we had to shovel snow for many hours, taking 4 days to make the last 270 miles. In making a memorandum of our trip, on our return, we made the following observations in regard to our western weather:-

"Now, two months later and not a sign of winter weather, temperatures running from 86° in the shade to 20° of frost with sunny skies incomparable at the season. Yes, our weather contradictions both seasonal and in extended cycles, have become the despair of our weather sages including our governments both Federal and Provincial. Our western weather more particularly in our southern open areas, has given us overproduction and underproduction in alternate periods ever since these lands became occupied. The daily needs of our people being continuous and standard, naturally do not balance with periodic production, hence the tragic position of our people during long periods of skimp production, the attempted solution of which has meant the rise and fall of several governments since entering the picture, as yet no Joseph having arisen in Canada (as in Egypt in Biblical times) to fully control the situation. Long experience, however, now appears to point to the wisdom of creating reserves during seasons of plenty, as a substitute for noncontinuity of production. Then there is talk of a resurvey with a view to closer adaptation of our resources to the needs of our people, also crop insurance, conservation of the spring freshet, afforestation, etc. But possibly the most hopeful of all is the recent announcement by

research of a new variety of drought-resistant wheat which will be ready for distribution shortly. In any case there can be no doubt that scientific research in cooperation with Nature will find the natural solution of this problem, to replace the present unsatisfactory policy of direct relief.

In regard to our personal habits and customs as a factor in relation to economic distress, notwithstanding our boasted civilization we have to admit that we have in the majority permitted our tastes and appetites to override our better judgment in many respects. Take for example our liquor and tobacco account in Canada of say One Hundred and Fifty Million Dollars per annum shall we say a vitiated acquired habit on the part of fifty per cent, of our adult people, a habit which if analyzed is possibly responsible for fifty per cent. of our distress today, and towards which the balance of our people must contribute in the form of relief."

*(Manifesto.)*

In formulating a policy to meet and keep pace with economic evolution in Canada, unemployment and its solution, for the time being at least, is by far the most pressing problem. Fortunately, Canada has potential resources awaiting development, ample to take care of all latent energy, whether manual or artisan, for many years to come. However, as economic adverse pressure can be met successfully only by co-operative effort, unemployment will require to be directed and assisted into constructive channels by Government supervision, if Canada's surplus labor is to find its logical place in the National structure.

When we realize that Canada contains within her domain every element necessary to make her self-sustaining, with two exceptions, cotton and rubber,





every citizen should feel inspired with renewed confidence in Canada's ability to hold her logical place in the sun.

In the past, evidently no guiding principle has been in effect in relation to the uniform development of Canada's resources as a factor in her growing National Structure. Apparently development has simply followed the line of least resistance, resulting in production becoming unbalanced, especially in wheat, thereby demoralizing, not only the home market, but also the world's competitive market, in effect overflowing all avenues back to point of production, thereby contributing to the present world depression. The principle of uniform development of Canada's diversified resources should stimulate economic self-control by creating a balanced commercial structure and equalizing supply and demand as development proceeds.

Stretching across Canada are situated her great mid-northern areas, presenting a problem in Canada's national development, which if handled intelligently, may hold the solution of her economic and labor troubles by linking unemployment with her undeveloped resources, thereby converting a weak and dependent segment of her national structure into a constructive and self-sustaining part of the whole system.

No doubt the physical features of this vast area may not appeal to the machine-conscious man of the great open spaces. Nevertheless we must remember that the ready-made farms of the eighties and nineties of the last century are no longer open to the settler answering the lure of the West, and that we have reached a period in Canadian history when we must come into closer grips with Nature in her sterner aspects,

in wresting her choicest gifts from their original setting. Moreover, the nature of the territory covered and the development of its varied resources lends itself to the adoption of first principles, by labor in the form of man-power as against machine-power if so desired, in reducing her rugged features to human control.

True, with the advent of the railway, the auto, the aeroplane, and modern means of communication, permitting civilization freer access, Canada is only now beginning to appreciate the importance of this undeveloped territory, which holds resources too rare and comprehensive to classify herein.

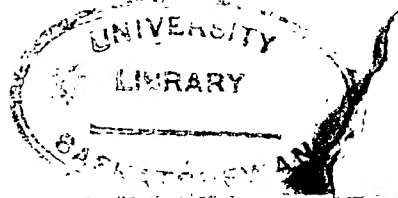
Here, then, may be the background and the opportunity for a great twentieth-century forward movement on Canada's part. During the latter part of the last century a great wave of Canadian enterprise found an active outlet in the great land trek to the West (economic unrest appears to stimulate these movements) and today Canada may again be due for another such movement. Canada is now confronted with a twentieth-century problem which may prove to be the turn of the tide in her favor, if she can only rise to the occasion with a twentieth-century solution. Great Britain is trying to meet her most serious problem, unemployment, with the dole. Russia is attempting to meet her economic problem by state control and development of all her resources for the benefit of her own people.

Schooled in first principles incident to the settlement and development of a young country whose resources are still ample, Canadian statecraft should take second place to no contestant on the economic chess-board. In contrast to Great Britain, whose markets over the high-seas constitute her economic life-blood, Canada in her resources holds economic independence.

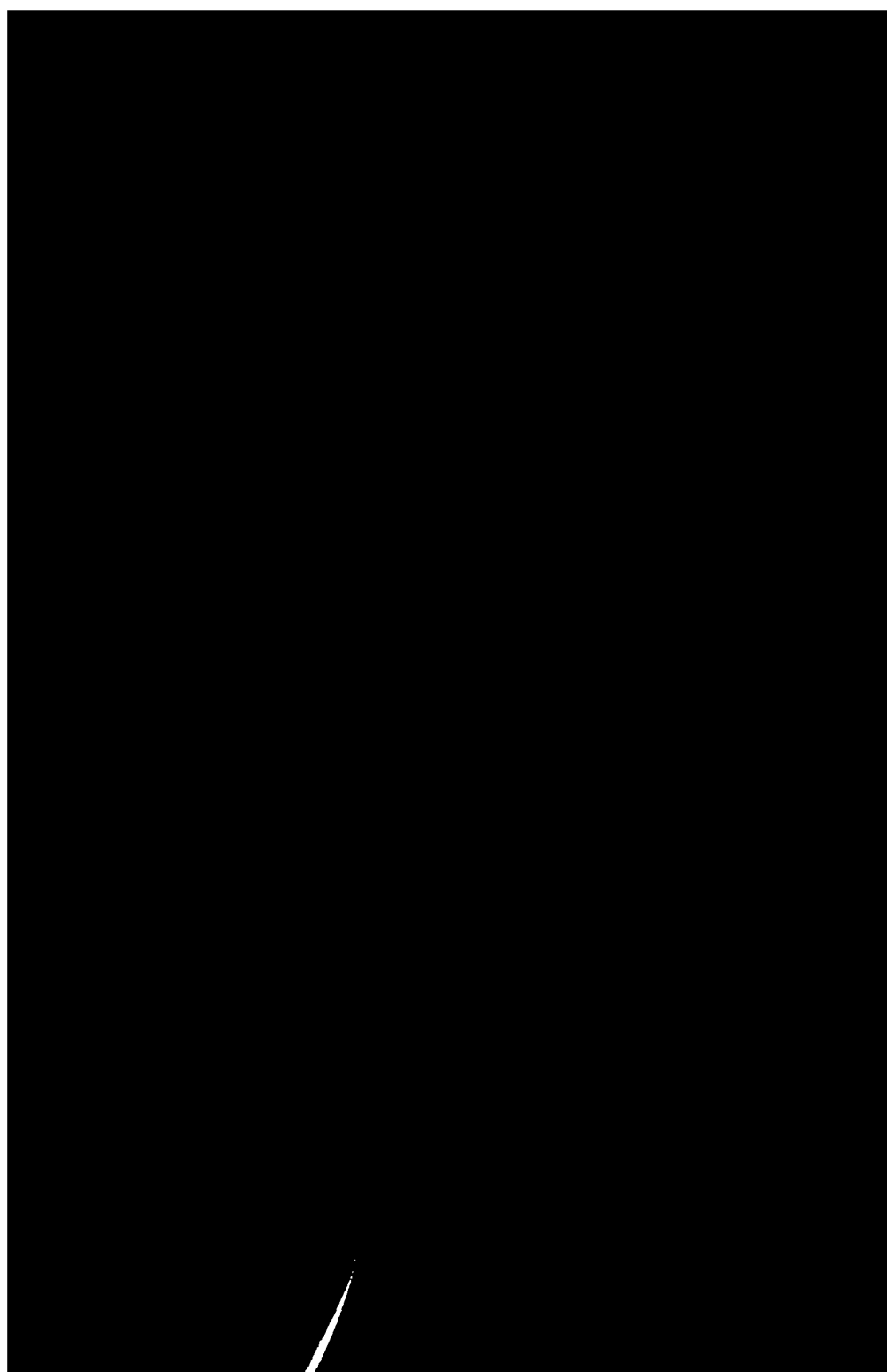
Canadian state initiative can and must turn and face her passing problems resolutely and constructively with true Canadian determination, and by so doing keep faith with our pioneer forbears and the Fathers of Confederation, who well and truly laid the foundation of the Canadian National Structure.

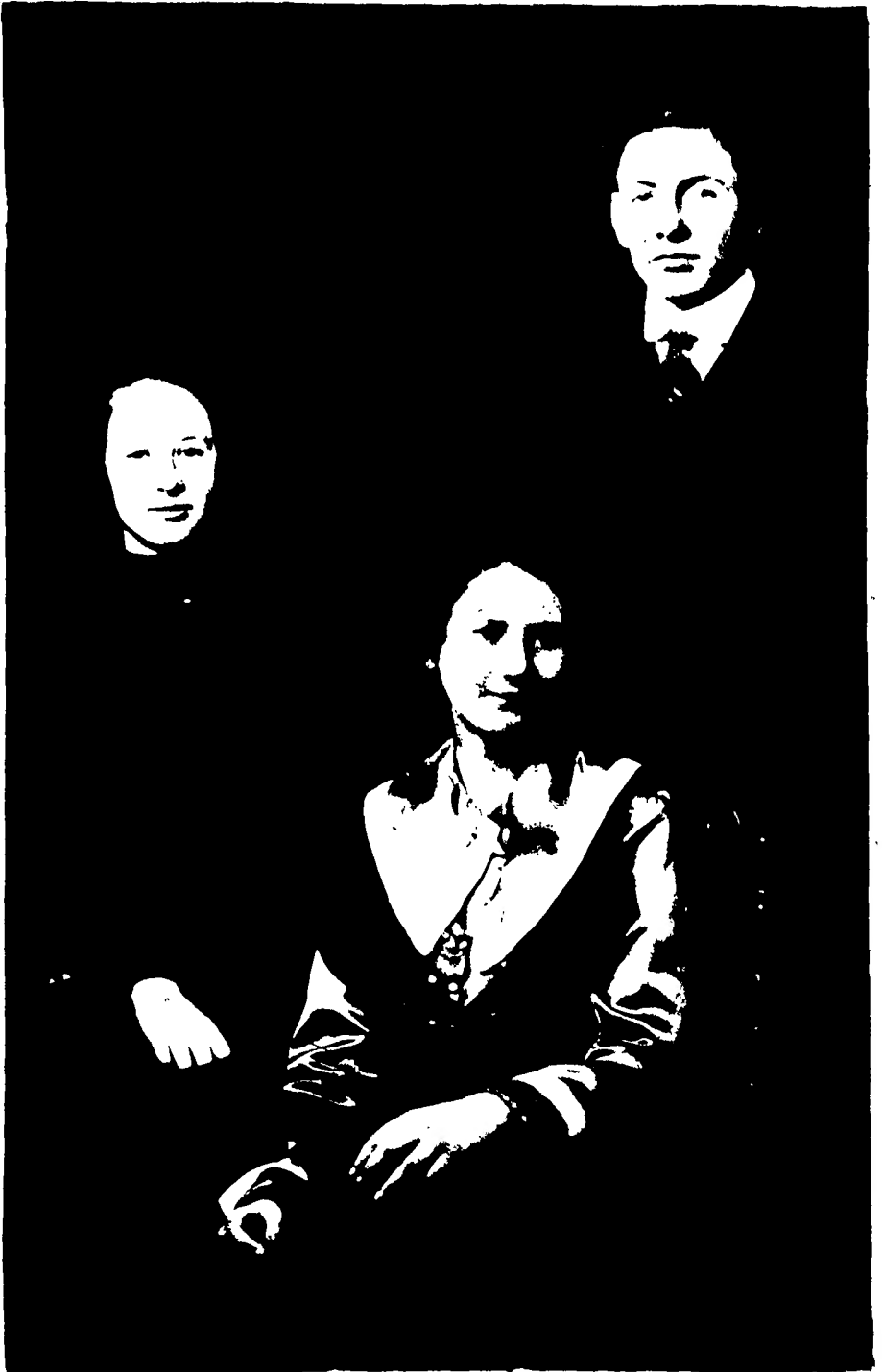
No doubt the appointment of a non-political commission of broad economic calibre would relieve the public mind pending a report. This commission would require to make a thorough survey of the economic situation from every angle possible, both domestic and foreign, before submitting its report and recommendations. In regard to unemployment, the survey would necessarily have to cover Canada's undeveloped resources across the Dominion as to the possibility of commercializing those most suited to her present needs, always keeping in mind a structural policy that will round out Canadian development toward a definite design and purpose, while directing unemployment and private enterprise into self-supporting and constructive channels. The question may be asked,--in view of Provincial interest in Canada's Natural Resources, how could Federal legislation be enacted covering Provincial rights over which she has no control?

In reply it may be said that the basic principle of the plan outlined is co-operation, and that Government co-ordination in the form of enabling legislation would be the first test of this principle between the Federal and Provincial authorities, in effect replacing the present tentative policy by something constructive and enduring, in harmony with our resources, Nature's birth-right to humanity, not to exploit but to use subject to Nature's decrees, an open book the profound study of which holds the key not only to our present, but also to our future well-being in conformity with the Divine supplication:- "Thy will be done."









BESSIE

CHRISTINE

WILLIAM R.

REGINA

1916